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MEGALITHIC SITE

Hat stones found in Kerala village

The stones, which were used as lids on burial urns, were unearthed in Malappuram

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The past and present of Myanmar's Tatmadaw

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How is the SC tackling gender stereotyping?

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India will look to seal series against Ireland

SPORT » PAGE 18

PM seeks a secure digital economy

Building consensus key to achieving this goal, says Modi at the G-20 Digital Economy Ministers' meet; he lauds 'Digital India' for financial inclusivity

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi (virtually) addresses the G-20 Digital Economy Ministers' meeting in Bengaluru. ANI

The Digital India campaign launched in 2015 was aimed at creating greater national financial inclusivity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday. Speaking virtually at the meeting of the G-20 Ministers of Digital Economy taking place in Bengaluru, Mr. Modi presented India's diversity as a resource that supports testing and solution of new digital products from all over the world and said it was necessary to build consensus on the "G-20 high-level principles for a secure, trusted and resilient digital economy".

"As the digital economy spreads globally, it will face security threats and challenges. In this context, it is important to build consensus on the G-20 high-level principles for a secure, trusted, and resilient digital economy. We in G-20 have a unique opportunity to lay the foundation for an inclusive, prosperous and secure global digital future," Mr. Modi declared in his opening remarks.

He said the digital infrastructure should cater to farmers and small businesses and urged the need to create a "framework for safe and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence". Mr. Modi presented India's digital economy as an enabling system and said the country had leveraged technology to make governance "inclusive" and "transparent". He highlighted the reach of the Aadhaar digital identity and said that it covered more than 1.3 billion Indian citizens.

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NEARBY

Indira Canteens to serve local food varieties

BENGALURU
The State Cabinet on Saturday decided to initiate measures to ensure that local variety of food was given at Indira Canteens in all urban local bodies (ULBs); however, a decision in this regard is yet to be taken with respect to Bengaluru. The meeting, chaired by the CM, stressed the need for providing regional variety of food like *ragi mudde*, among others. » Page 8

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State to move SC seeking direction to CWMA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

H.K. Patil

The State Cabinet on Saturday directed the Advocate-General to file a petition in the Supreme Court on Monday seeking its direction to the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to reconsider its fiat to Karnataka to release 10,000 cusecs of water per day to Tamil Nadu.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told presspersons after a Cabinet meeting that the Advocate-General had been invited to the Cabinet meeting and he had been asked to file the petition before the apex court for early hearing of the matter.

The Opposition BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular) have slammed the government's decision to release Cauvery waters to Tamil Nadu. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would call an all-party meeting soon on the issue of release of water to Tamil Nadu, Mr. Patil said.

It may be noted that the Opposition parties and farmers' organisations have maintained that releasing water to Tamil Nadu at a time when the State itself was staring at a drought would further deteriorate the drinking water supply situation in the State.

Nine soldiers die as vehicle falls into gorge in Ladakh

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Nine soldiers, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), were killed and one was critically injured after a vehicle carrying the 10 personnel fell into a deep gorge in Leh district of Ladakh on Saturday. The injured soldier has been shifted to hospital.

The Army, in a statement, said that the ALS vehicle, which was moving as part of a convoy from Leh to Nyoma, skidded into the valley at around 6 p.m., seven kilometres away from Kyari town.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Home Minister Amit Shah condoled the death of the soldiers.

Raptors make power towers their home

Study finds that white-bellied sea eagles make nests on powerline towers in Tamil Nadu; authors say this poses risk to the species, and also points to the lack of suitable nesting sites near the sea

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Alternative home: A white-bellied sea eagle nests on a powerline tower at Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

White-bellied sea eagles in India are beginning to emulate their counterparts in Australia and Thailand by making their homes on power towers holding high-tension wires.

The use of man-made structures as nesting sites can be both risky and beneficial to these coastal raptors and humans in the vicinity, but the development points to a lack of trees and other natural nesting alternatives, a study published in the latest issue of the conservation-themed monthly, *Journal of Threatened Taxa* said.

The nests of the white-bellied sea eagles were found on powerline towers about 2 km away from the sea in Ramanathapuram of Tamil Nadu. The nesting sites were strategic for the birds to conveniently scan the marine area for food, the study said.

The white-bellied sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) is a resident raptor belonging to the family *Accipitridae*. It has a wide distribution range on the sea coast of India from Mumbai to the eastern coast of Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka in southern Asia, through all coastal south-eastern Asia, southern China to Australia.

The raptor, a diurnal monogamous bird of prey, is categorised as being of 'least concern' on the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

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Rain fury: A damaged road following flash floods triggered by a cloudburst in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh, where over 330 people have died since the monsoon began. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu has declared the rain havoc a State calamity. PTI

Cry of the hills

Incessant rain and devastating floods in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh have led to the loss of hundreds of lives and thousands of homes; roads and railway tracks lie wrecked

The past six weeks of torrential rain in the hilly states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh – both with some of the highest mountain ranges in the region, accompanying glaciers and mighty rivers – have badly hit many cities and villages.

In late 2022, Joshimath town in Uttarakhand came under a crisis, when land began sinking from various factors, including manmade ones such as years of unplanned construction, hydroelectric power projects and the lack of a proper drainage system. In 1991, an earthquake had almost flattened Uttarkashi. That the area is fragile has been established beyond doubt.

The neighbouring State of Himachal Pradesh has tapped into the potential of being a tourist destination and there has been rampant development here too. Shimla and Manali serve as the gateway to higher mountain regions where tourism plays a huge role in the economy.

To meet the growing demand for tourism in the region – religious tourism in Uttarakhand, and adventure tourism on the Himachal side, the administration began expanding the road network.

Townships have come along these roads, and more people have settled expecting the expanded roads will bring more economic activity to the region. But come rains, and a different truth starts playing out. People, trees, and vehicles have been washed away.

This time, the States have seen enormous loss of lives. Roads have been swept away, and so have people's homes. A part of the heritage Kalka-Shimla Railway line was battered.

The Himachal Pradesh government has declared the rain havoc a State calamity. More than 330 people had lost their lives and 12,000 houses have been damaged. In Uttarakhand, at least 75 people have died in rain-related accidents since the monsoon began.

In spate: A man watches the swollen Sutlej river after heavy rain at Rampur in Himachal Pradesh. AFP

Deep cut: A view of the portion of a road which was washed away by the raging river in Manali, Himachal Pradesh.

On edge: People stand by a road washed away by the swollen Beas river in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh. AP

Broken link: The damaged Shimla-Kalka railway track, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, near Summer Hill on the outskirts of Shimla. AFP

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A BG-BGE

Clearing a path: An excavator being used at the site of a landslip on the outskirts of Shimla. Days of intense rain across northern India rendered many areas inaccessible as bridges were destroyed and roads were blocked, officials said. AFP

Broken and battered: A portion of the Badrinath National Highway collapsed due to a landslip, after heavy rain, in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. ANI

Road to normalcy: Restoration work under way on the National Highway that was blocked at Bhanerpani in Chamoli district. PTI

No way home: A vehicle stranded in debris after a landslip on the National Highway in Chamoli. ANI

Filled to the brim: An aerial survey was conducted to inspect the increased water level of the Ganga in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand. ANI

A gap to bridge: A bridge over the Malan river was damaged after incessant rain, in Kotdwar of Uttarakhand. In Phata area on the Kedarnath Yatra route in Rudraprayag district, five persons travelling in a car were buried under debris earlier this month. PTI

ITC: NATION FIRST-TRANSFORMING FOR OUR SHARED TOMORROWS

112th Annual General Meeting, ITC Limited, August 11, 2023

ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR SANJIV PURI

Enduring Value

We meet today at a time when India is taking purposeful strides towards the vision of Amrit Kaal. The country is buoyed by optimism and deeply engaged in realising that promise, striding on the pathways of clearly enunciated goals and policies. What is remarkable is that such an outlook pervades at a time when the world is grappling with serious issues affecting growth across all major economies.

India's resilient growth is a testament to the slew of policy measures unleashed by our inspirational Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. Some major policy initiatives include: tripling of public capex, best-in-class public digital infrastructure, the PLI scheme to attract private investment in focus sectors, establishing strong Farmer Producer Organisations supported by a multi-stakeholder integrated Agri-Stack to empower farmers, targeted welfare spending leading to impactful delivery of grassroot benefits; and many more. Aligned with the Prime Minister's overarching vision, the Hon'ble Finance Minister unveiled path-breaking Budgets recently with substantial outlays towards each of the policy measures to usher in green and inclusive growth. Prudent fiscal and monetary policies, extensive reforms of the financial sector, together with stronger corporate balance sheets and better capacity utilisations augur well for higher levels of investment required to raise the growth trajectory. **As the Government celebrates its 9th anniversary, the remarkable transformation of the economy across multiple dimensions has fuelled unbounded aspirations, hope and optimism for the future.**

While the potential is almost limitless, we are not immune to the adverse impact of several global crises including climate emergency, persisting inflation, supply chain disruptions, muted demand conditions in some major economies and the impact of geo-political dynamics. Further, despite moderating inflation, key commodity prices remain elevated and volatile, adding to the magnitude of external risks. In such an uncertain environment, the Indian economy demonstrated resilience, reporting robust growth while simultaneously unshackling its latent potential towards realising the vision of Amrit Kaal.

Corporates have both an economic and a social purpose. Hence, the path to future progress necessitates business strategies that not only address such uncertainties but also the underlying fault-lines of social inequity and environmental threats. This realisation led your Company to embrace a paradigm of **Responsible Competitiveness**, that combines agile competitiveness with environmental sustainability and livelihood generation.

The ITC Next strategy seeks to architect the next horizon of competitiveness, growth and profitability in the face of global uncertainties. The agility displayed particularly over the last 2 years attests to the robustness of the ITC Next strategy and stands testimony to the exceptional perseverance displayed by your Company's dedicated employees. Your Company remains committed to making the right strategic choices and adapting to changing macro-economic circumstances.

TRANSFORMING ITC: NEW VECTORS OF GROWTH & COMPETITIVENESS

Your Company has taken decisive strides to transform into a FutureTech, Climate Positive, Innovative and Inclusive enterprise. We recognise that this journey will be traversed in an era of unprecedented uncertainties, making it mission critical to be extremely agile, consumer-centric, competitive and resilient.

The ITC Next strategy seeks to energise this transformation with multiple interventions.

- Your Company's Businesses continue to build on their **future-ready portfolio** of differentiated, high quality products and services to address evolving needs of customers and consumers.
- **New vectors of growth** are being nurtured at the convergence of mega trends in digital and sustainability, harnessing ITC's enterprise strengths. ITCMAARS, Sustainable Packaging and FoodTech are vectors born out of this approach. FoodTech synergises your Company's strengths in Foods, Hotels and Digital. Having established the product-market fit successfully in Bengaluru with 3 brands delivered through 19 cloud kitchens, we are now gearing up to take the offering to other cities.
- **Structural competitiveness** is being strengthened through focused investments in establishing market-aligned innovation platforms, an agile, resilient and efficient supply-chain, a digital-first culture and smart operations across businesses.
- **Institutional synergies** are being consciously nurtured to create new levers of unique competitive advantage.
- Your Company continues to invest in creating **Intellectual Capital** through cutting edge R&D and proprietary intellectual property, also manifest in ITC's world-class brands.
- **In today's context, it is evident that any strategy, which is devoid of addressing the growing societal challenges will be outdated, irrelevant and bound to be short-lived. It is for this reason that ITC has crafted innovative business models that work towards building economic, environmental and social capital as a unified approach.**

These multipronged strategic initiatives are designed to fortify mature businesses that are leaders in their segments and also lend strong wings to newer businesses as they move towards achieving the pole position in their respective categories.

FAST MOVING CONSUMER GOODS

FMCG represents an area of immense potential, given the expected growth in per capita income, increasing consumer preference for trusted brands and value-added products, as well as accelerating digitalisation. In this context, Indian brands that are globally competitive can foster substantial value retention in the domestic economy by creating robust supply chains within the country. This opportunity to contribute meaningfully to a 'Viksit Bharat' inspires your Company to build its FMCG Businesses at scale powered by world-class brands that cater to evolving consumer aspirations.

The ITC Next strategy for your Company's FMCG Businesses has redefined the critical pathways to growth and profitability by building a future-ready portfolio focused on fortifying and scaling mega brands, leveraging these brands to address value-added adjacencies and crafting categories of the future. Innovation, brand investments, reach and digitalisation are driving premiumisation as well as penetration-led growth. In a relatively short span of time, your Company has built a portfolio of 25-plus vibrant brands in the FMCG Businesses that represent an annual consumer spend of Rs 29,000 crore. **It is a source of immense satisfaction that 2 of our flagship brands are already in the league of over Rs 5,000 crore, whilst 5 more brands have touched spends between Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 4,000 crore**. More importantly, these brands anchor competitive domestic value chains that foster large-scale livelihoods as well as local entrepreneurship.

Over the past 3 years, nearly 300 new products were launched, including several premium products, leveraging the innovation capacity of ITC's Life Sciences & Technology Centre.

In line with the strong need for healthy 'good-for-you' products, your Company launched the 'Help India Eat Better' initiative that focuses on affordable, accessible and planet-friendly nutrition. Furthering this initiative, your Company recently launched the '**ITC Mission Millets**' programme. This Mission is founded on a 3-pillar model that encompasses development of a 'good-for-you' portfolio, implementation of sustainable farming and enhancing consumer awareness. Together with supporting FPOs in the millet value chain, two PPP projects have been implemented in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, in partnership with Indian Institute of Millets Research. An extensive portfolio is being rolled out for every meal occasion, age and format. In this context, your Company also invested in Yoga Bar that has a portfolio of premium products, including millet-based offerings, catering to health-conscious consumers.

Your Company believes that brands must serve a larger societal purpose and leverage the substantial market interventions to positively influence social change. Several of your Company's brands lead purposeful initiatives in areas that can make a meaningful difference. The 'Mangaldeep' brand has empanelled visually impaired persons as fragrance testers, fostering a life of dignity and hope. 'Fiama' espouses the cause of addressing mental health issues. 'Vivel' champions women's empowerment. The 'Savlon Swasth India' programme which orchestrates hygiene behaviour, has covered over 8,000 schools reaching out to over 2 million students. 'Classmate All Rounder' programme aims at holistic skill development, covering over 3,00,000 school students. 'YiPPee!'s Terra programme upcycles post-consumer plastic wrapper waste into attractive laptop sleeves, tote bags and so on.

ITC's vision to be a FutureTech company is powered by 'Mission DigiArc' a next-generation smart digital architecture. The DigiArc ecosystem today encompasses 200 factories, 50 warehouses, nearly 3,000 distributors and 2.6 million retailers driving real-time, data-led intelligence across the extended enterprise. Embedded with cutting-edge technologies in AI/ML together with Centres of Excellence in Industry 4.0, Advanced Analytics and Data Sciences as well as the 6th Sense Marketing Command Centre, DigiArc empowers mainstreaming of the digital-first culture to create new sources of competitive advantage. Over 25 projects contributed to transforming all facets of our operations, ranging from insighting to product development, smart sourcing to on-time efficient delivery in markets and superior brand engagement and marketing through real-time content, connect and commerce.

Your Company's Trade Marketing & Distribution highway has transformed into a **smart omni-channel network** including 6 D2C platforms. This network leverages proprietary algorithms for sharp targeting markets, geo whitespacing, and enhancing responsiveness and efficiencies. Today, nearly 6,00,000 retailers are digitally connected through UNNATI B2B app. Effectiveness of sales execution improved by **17%** in one year; sales through digital channels increased by **7x** over FY20 levels; coverage increased by **2x** and rural stockists tripled in the last three years.

I had earlier highlighted the investments in Integrated Consumer Goods Manufacturing and Logistics Facilities (ICML) at strategic locations towards deriving economies of scale and scope, creating agility in market responsiveness and optimising logistics with delayering of operations. These ICMLs now span a built-up area of more than 6 million sq.ft., and together with other facilities, ship out more than 56 million packs of your Company's products every day. With a view to optimising cost and quality, your Company's agri value chains are being integrated, enabling proximal sourcing in the vicinity of the ICMLs.

Your Company continues to strengthen its Cigarettes segment through fortifying product portfolio, innovation, sharpening execution capabilities and upgrading product quality to reinforce market standing in the face of severe threats from illicit cigarette trade. It is pertinent to note that legal cigarettes constitute merely 8% of the aggregate tobacco consumption in the country. Deterrent action from the Government, coupled with relative stability in taxes, has enabled this segment to partially recover volumes from illicit trade. Volume recovery over time will lead to buoyancy in tax revenues and growth in demand for Indian tobaccos, benefitting both the Exchequer and Indian farmers.

The FMCG industry offers immense opportunity for growth. The market size of the FMCG segment is estimated to be upwards of Rs 21 trillion by 2030 and the addressable market for your Company's carefully curated FMCG portfolio is estimated to be about Rs 5 trillion. The multi-dimensional interventions of ITC Next position your Company well to harness the significant market potential, attain leadership in every segment and create growing value for all stakeholders.

AGRI BUSINESS

Agriculture assumes even more significance as we envision a future with nearly 10 billion people on this planet by 2050, requiring a massive 70% increase in food production. The agri sector has the onerous task of providing for food, bio-energy and livelihood security, even as climate change causes more vulnerability. Nearly half of India's workforce is dependent on this sector which faces challenges of low productivity and incomes. Consequently, there is an urgent need for a new developmental paradigm for this sector.

India is well endowed as the 2nd highest agri producer in the world, with the largest arable land and diverse agro-climatic zones. Yet, agriculture accounts for just 18% of GVA with only 3% share of global trade and less than 10% share of processed produce. However, there is tremendous untapped growth potential through vertical scale-up, value addition and larger integration to global markets, with consequent large-scale rural transformation.

The ITC Next strategy seeks to address the imperatives of fostering demand-responsive agriculture, accelerating value-addition, enhancing productivity, quality and farm incomes, strengthening competitiveness and tackling vulnerabilities arising from climate risks. The purposeful policy thrust of the Government to accelerate digital adoption in the farm sector and promote Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) have enabled your Company to bring the power of digital revolution to farmers with FPOs as the pivot. ITCMAARS, the phygital ecosystem that was launched last year, is poised to be a game changing catalyst to usher in Next Generation Agriculture. This new business model enables larger efficiencies in sourcing, higher value addition and better traceability of attribute-specific products, besides promoting sustainable agriculture. **ITCMAARS has been rapidly expanded to 9 states, supporting more than 6,00,000 farmers through 1,150 FPOs. Your Company's aspiration is to support 4,000 FPOs by 2030, stepping up farmer empowerment from 4 million to 10 million**.

Your Company's Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Programme aims to de-risk farmers from extreme weather events through a package of agronomy practices, high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties as well as appropriate mechanisation. Today, the programme has already covered over 2.3 million acres against the target of 3 million acres, benefiting more than 7,40,000 farmers. It is encouraging to note from an assessment of the first phase of CSA districts that GHG emissions of select crops reduced between 13-66% and net returns to farmers increased by 46-93%. Also, 70% of the villages have moved into the High-Resilience, High-Yield category.

A key opportunity area in the agri-sector is Horticulture given the potential for value addition, exports and higher farmer incomes. ITC's Agri Business is building on its portfolio of Value-Added Products across multiple value chains including spices, coffee, frozen marine products, processed fruits and organic produce. The Business is also gearing up for a full play in Medicinal and Aromatic Plants. This year, your Company set up a state-of-the-art export-oriented spices facility in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. This plant, together with the Integrated Crop Management programme of your Company, initiated in partnership with various State Governments, will provide formidable competitiveness, whilst empowering farmers. In addition, your Company's subsidiary, ITC IndiVision Limited has recently commissioned a world-class facility for the manufacture and export of nicotine and nicotine derivative products, conforming to stringent US and EU Pharmacopoeia standards.

Today, your Company is the largest procurer of agri commodities in the private sector, sourcing 4.5 million tonnes across 20 value chains in 22 States, placing it in a unique position to make a meaningful difference to rural transformation and farmer empowerment. Your Company's world-class FMCG brands anchor several agri value chains contributing to rural transformation and national priorities. We believe our efforts will usher in a new dimension of agricultural progress, benefitting farmers whilst providing significant competitive advantage to your Company's businesses.

PAPERBOARDS, PAPER & PACKAGING BUSINESS

India's ambitious growth trajectory is expected to drive demand for high quality value-added paperboards and sustainable packaging. Current per capita paperboard and paper consumption in India is considerably low at 14 kgs, compared to world average of 57 kgs, pointing to the growth potential. The emerging trend for plastic substitution will also provide further fillip to the demand for paperboards and plant-based moulded fibre biodegradable products.

The ITC Next strategy for the Paperboards and Packaging Business entails development of a portfolio of Value-Added Paperboards and Sustainable Packaging, strengthening structural competitiveness, scaling up a cost-effective fibre chain and leveraging opportunities arising out of the mega trends of digital and sustainability.

The Value-Added Paperboards portfolio has been fortified with substantial capacity augmentation in the last 5 years. **The Business is at the forefront of developing sustainable packaging solutions and a range of planet-friendly, biodegradable and recyclable products have been launched on existing platforms under the 'Filo', 'Omega', 'Bio-seal' and 'Oxyblock' series.** These eco-labelled products have recorded a 2x increase in revenue over last year. Pioneering work has been undertaken to create a new platform with plant-based premium moulded fibre products that are capable of solving complex engineering and aesthetic requirements. Accordingly, your Company is investing in a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Sehore, Madhya Pradesh, to manufacture technologically sophisticated products with promising applications in pharmaceutical, cosmetics, electronics and other sectors.

The Business is an acknowledged icon of environmental stewardship, with focus on decarbonisation, sequestration and livelihood generation. The recent state-of-the-art High-Pressure Recovery Boiler commissioned at Bhadrachalam will reduce coal usage by one-third while improving ITC's share of renewable energy by 6%. Your Company's afforestation programme has greened over 1 million acres and supported over 190 million person-days of employment for marginal farmers whilst creating a sustainable and competitive fibre chain for your Company.

It is evident that a competitive wood-based industry can generate large economic multipliers, enable significant carbon sequestration and livelihood generation. Our country has 30 million hectares of degraded forest land capable of being converted into productive and green assets. An enabling policy framework that would permit enterprises to lease degraded forest land can enhance competitiveness, spawn new wood-based industries, enable import substitution to the tune of US$ 4 billion annually, create large carbon sinks and generate significant rural employment of nearly 1.3 billion person-days.

Your Company's manufacturing excellence, thrust on digital, sustainability and frugal innovation capacity will enable competitively superior performance whilst also creating significant environmental and social capital as it embraces the vast opportunities ahead.

HOTELS

Let me now turn to the Hotels Business. The Hospitality industry is poised for strong growth due to the confluence of favourable factors such as rising societal aspirations, the growing stature of India as an attractive investment destination, increasing connectivity, strong macros, policy interventions as well as digital explosion. It is estimated that the Tourism GDP in India can grow from US$ 143 billion to US$ 250 billion by 2030 with employment growing from 88 million to 137 million.

ITC's Hotels Business recorded a strong performance for FY23 with the doubling of Segment Revenue. EBITDA margins expanded by 930 bps over FY20. The Business is well poised to capitalise on the significant growth opportunity, given its distinctive position in India's tourism landscape. The Business' unique value proposition has been built on the strength of its iconic properties, signature cuisines, best-in-class service and ethos of Responsible Luxury. It is the chain of choice for the discerning traveller and today spans over 120 hotels, with 11,600 keys in 70 locations.

The Hotels Business has also been a trailblazer in Responsible Luxury, a trend that the world is moving towards. The Business' LEED certifications are unmatched by any hotel chain in the world. Carbon emissions per room are already lower than the 2030 GHG sectoral emission targets. Single use plastics have been eliminated to the tune of 2,50,000 kgs every year.

Having established a strong market standing, as part of ITC Next, your Company pivoted to an asset right strategy. The Hotels Business has developed a bouquet of brands, including ITC Hotels, Mementos, Welcomhotel, Storii, Welcomheritage and Fortune, that address relevant customer need spaces and are receiving favourable response from asset owners. In the last 16 months alone, 18 hotels have been added, mostly through management contracts. Today, managed properties account for 55% of total rooms. ITC Narmada launched this year in Ahmedabad, is the first LEED Platinum hotel in Gujarat and has received excellent customer response.

As you are aware, the Board of Directors of your Company has accorded its in-principle approval to the proposed demerger of the Hotels Business, under a scheme of arrangement. The continued interest of ITC in the new entity will provide long term stability and instil a sense of assurance among partners, investors and employees, while enabling the new entity to leverage ITC's institutional strengths including the timeless goodwill, world-class brands and governance processes. For ITC, the reorganisation will sharpen capital allocation, improve asset efficiency ratios, unlock value for its shareholders as well as enable leveraging of institutional synergies.

Thus, the proposed reorganisation will enable the Business to architect the next horizon of growth as a pure play hotels entity with a strong balance sheet and healthy pipeline, especially when the industry is poised for robust growth.

ITC INFOTECH

Your Company's subsidiary ITC Infotech has made encouraging progress in recent years and is dialling up investments to be future-ready. **The company continues to play a pivotal role in enabling clients to accelerate digital transformation, optimise costs and enhance operational efficiencies**. As an endorsement of this focus, the company won a significant deal this year, creating a gateway for similar marquee client acquisitions in the future.

The sharpened focus on customer centricity, employee centricity and operational excellence together with deep new-age capabilities holds immense promise for the company to be a significant value creator.

ITC: A STELLAR SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY

A few years ago, the UN Secretary General aptly termed climate change as a 'crisis multiplier'. The IPCC has warned that nearly 3.6 billion people today are dangerously vulnerable to climate impacts. Estimates suggest that climate induced events since 2000 have led to global losses of US$ 2.56 trillion in PPP terms. India experienced extreme weather events on 84 of the 120 days in the first four months of 2023. By 2050, 30 Indian cities are likely to face acute water scarcity. This planetary crisis is also aggravated by growing social inequity worldwide. Clearly, radical changes in growth models are imperative if future progress is to be sustainable and inclusive.

It is heartening to note the leadership role being played by India in spearheading climate action and transitioning to a net-zero economy. The Hon'ble Prime Minister had earlier unveiled the Panchamrit plan setting out our nationally determined contribution goals. Several progressive interventions have been taken by the Government including the International Solar Alliance, National Hydrogen Mission, apart from a slew of other policy measures. Transition to a net-zero economy will require faster adoption of green technologies, as well as accelerated investments in R&D to develop new pathways through viable and accessible technology solutions, particularly in agriculture and hard-to-abate sectors as well as carbon capture, usage and storage. Despite efforts to move towards net zero, IPCC has warned of the likelihood of breaching the tipping point of 1.5°C in the near term multiplying extreme weather events manifold. **Therefore, it is imperative to bring Adaptation to the centre stage of climate action**.

The ITC Next framework mainstreams sustainability as an integral part of business strategy to leverage emerging opportunities, build resilience and competitiveness, whilst pursuing a bold agenda for adaptation and mitigation. Substantial investments have been directed towards establishing green infrastructure, expanding renewable energy, enabling higher resource efficiency, promoting sequestration and nature-based solutions and in embedding circularity in business models.

Your Company has made tremendous progress on decarbonisation. Despite a growing operational footprint, nearly 43% of ITC's total energy consumption is from renewable sources. Investments in solar, wind and biofuels have contributed to an installed capacity of 178 MW. ITC is also a pioneer in the green building movement with 49 LEED certified buildings. Contributing to Circularity, ITC has been plastic neutral for the 2nd consecutive year. Your Company remains committed to developing newer technology pathways. Towards this end, partnerships have been forged with leading research organisations to develop viable energy storage systems, decarbonise cold chains and improve prediction modelling for generation of renewable energy.

To build resilience against the growing threat of extreme weather events, your Company has initiated several purposeful adaptation measures to secure physical infrastructure and de-risk agri value chains. We have invested substantially in pursuing adaptation through innovative nature-based solutions in view of its effectiveness in building resilience of farming and rural communities. These include Afforestation, Biodiversity, Climate Smart Agriculture and Water Stewardship. The Afforestation initiative today sequesters nearly 6 million tonnes of CO_2e annually. ITC's Biodiversity Conservation initiatives have restored over 2,90,000 acres in 12 States and we intend to cover 1 million acres by 2030. Under the Water Stewardship initiatives, the Integrated Watershed Development Programme has covered over 1.4 million acres with 28,000 water harvesting structures. The demand-side management programme undertaken in 1.2 million acres has led to water usage efficiencies of 20-45% across 15 crops, resulting in water savings potential of 780 million kilolitres. ITC has now embarked upon an ambitious plan of achieving water positive status at river basin level that will also benefit local ecosystems. The success achieved in making the Ghod river basin water positive in a span of 5 years has emboldened us to implement 4 more such river regeneration projects.

Your Company has also committed to pursuing Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) certification for all high water stressed sites by 2035. Recently, your Company's unit at Malur has become Asia's first food factory to be awarded the AWS Platinum level certification, which follows a similar achievement for our Paperboards Unit in Kovai.

Recognising the need to comprehensively address the challenge of global warming, a climate risk modelling exercise using advanced analytics was undertaken at a pan ITC level, which was subsequently followed with site-specific and agri value chain-specific assessments so as to sharp target adaptation actions. Based on such studies, appropriate site-specific interventions are being progressed.

Over the years, your Company has implemented an impactful Social Investments Programme to catalyse gainful livelihood opportunities for rural communities through a two-horizon approach. Horizon-1 focuses on strengthening current livelihoods of communities, primarily in agriculture and allied sectors whilst Horizon-2 builds capabilities for a better tomorrow. Interventions in areas such as primary education, vocational training, women empowerment, healthcare and others have been progressively scaled up over the years. Pursuing our Diversity and Inclusion goals, it is heartening that our recent ICMLs employ a majority of women, ranging between 50-75% of the total workforce.

Your Company sustained its 'AA' rating by MSCI-ESG for the 5th consecutive year reinforcing its leadership amongst peers. It is a matter of pride that our innovative initiatives have enabled ITC to be the only company of its size to achieve the global environmental distinction of being carbon, water and solid waste re-cycling positive for over 18, 21 and 16 years respectively.

ITC's sustainability approach has not only led to globally distinctive performance but also contributed to making the enterprise, its value chains and the rural communities that we engage with much more resilient.

IN CONCLUSION

India's confident march to Amrit Kaal will undoubtedly present exciting growth opportunities. Inspired by the opportunity to make a larger contribution to the nation, we have consistently pushed the boundaries of what is possible by building the businesses of tomorrow, by making innovation the foundation of our future-readiness, by embracing technology that will redefine the horizon and by making sustainability the soul of our enterprise.

This is an extract of Chairman's AGM address. For details, please visit www.itcportal.com. For an e-booklet of the address, please email ITC's Corporate Communications Department at ccd@itc.in

INBRIEF

BMRCL to encourage use of common mobility cards

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) has decided to encourage the use of National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC). The NCMC cards will be available for purchase at Namma Metro stations during operational hours and contactless smart cards will have restricted sales from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

On Saturday, in a release, the BMRCL said Namma Metro was taking steps to improve the buying experience of NCMC cards and make it more convenient for the commuters across all the stations with effect from Monday.

On Saturday, Anjum Parwez, BMRCL managing director, and Shantanu Roy, chairman and managing director of BEML Ltd., exchanged the contract agreement for supply of 318 coaches for phases 2, 2A, and 2B of Namma Metro.

At Namma Kere panel, experts call for coordinated action

At an event hosted by Citizens for Sankey and Bengaluru Praja Vedike on Saturday, experts from law, environment, civic activism, politics, and civil administration gathered for a 'Namma Kere' panel and engaged in a focused discussion on resolving issues afflicting Bengaluru's lakes.

All panellists unanimously agreed that the lake-related issues are compounded by excessive laws and disjointed agency actions. BBMP Special Commissioner of Lakes Preeti Gehlot stressed on the necessity for a unified 'lake body' to streamline efforts across departments, including the BBMP. Rajeev Gowda, former MP and vice-chairman of the State Institute for Transformation of Karnataka, said there was political will to lead coordinated efforts among government entities.

Power shutdown today

There will be disruption in power supply on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the areas serviced from 220/66/11-kV ITI MUSS to carry out the second quarterly maintenance work. According to a release from Bescom, the areas to be affected are Kaverinagar, Singayyanapalya, Bhattarahalli, Medahalli, T.C. Palya, K.R. Puram, Devasandra, Ayyappanagar, Jinkethimmanahalli, Akshaynagar, Kowdenahalli, ITI Layout, B. Narayanapura, and surrounding areas.

What draft of BBMP ward delimitation looks like

It has fresh boundary demarcations, reduced the number of wards in some Assembly constituencies that elected BJP leaders, and new names for a few wards

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The new ward delimitation draft issued by the State government late on Friday has fresh boundary demarcations, reduced the number of wards in some Assembly constituencies that elected BJP leaders, and new names for a few wards.

On August 4, the Urban Development Department (UDD) withdrew the final notification issued by the previous BJP government. In the new notification, the total number of wards has been brought down from 243 to 225.

The Congress was opposing the earlier delimitation process vociferously, claiming that it was done to favour the BJP. When the BJP government increased the number of wards from 198 to 243, it was accused of redrawing boundaries unscientifically.

In June 2023, the High Court of Karnataka granted 12 weeks to the government to redo the delimitation exercise. The Congress government had requested the court for additional time on the grounds that the earlier process was unscientific.

The court was hearing an appeal challenging the dismissal of a writ petition by a single judge. The appeal was filed by B.N. Manjunatha Reddy and three others after their writ petition challenging the July 14, 2022 delimitation notification was dismissed by the judge. The appellants said the judge failed to take note of the fact that the division of wards was irregular and disproportionate. According to them, the delimitation committee committed glaring errors.

The new draft has carved out on an average of 37,527 people per ward as against 35,000 per ward in the past. Umesh Shetty, former councillor, said the Congress government had demarcated boundaries to suit their vote bank, and even changed some historical names given for wards by the BJP.

Some of the names given by the BJP were Chhatrapati Shivaji, Kanneshwara Rama, Veera Madakari, and Ranadheera Kanteerava. The new government went with the original name of the layouts.

Number of wards in Assembly constituencies

Assembly segment	198 wards (old)	243 wards (withdrawn)	225 wards (new)
Yelahanka (BJP)	4	5	5
K.R. Puram (BJP)	9	13	12
Byatarayanapura (Congress)	7	10	10
Yeshwantpur (BJP)	5	8	7
R.R. Nagar (BJP)	9	14	12
Dasarahalli (BJP)	8	12	12
Mahalakshmi Layout (BJP)	7	9	8
Malleswaram (BJP)	7	7	6
Hebbal (Congress)	8	8	8
Pulakeshinagar (Congress)	7	7	7
Sarvagnanagar (Congress)	8	10	10
C.V. Raman Nagar (BJP)	7	9	8
Shivajinagar (Congress)	7	6	6
Shantinagar (Congress)	7	7	7
Gandhinagar (Congress)	7	7	7
Rajajinagar (BJP)	6	7	6
Govindarajanagar (Congress)	9	10	9
Vijayanagar (Congress)	8	9	9
Chamarajpet (Congress)	7	6	6
Chickpet (BJP)	7	7	6
Basavanagudi (BJP)	6	7	6
Padmanabhanagar (BJP)	8	10	8
BTM Layout (Congress)	8	9	9
Jayanagar (BJP)	7	6	6
Mahadevapura (BJP)	8	13	11
Bommanahalli (BJP)	8	14	12
Bengaluru South (BJP)	7	12	11
Anekal (Congress)	1	1	1

Original names

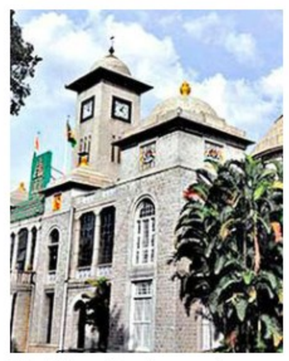
Minister for Transport Ramalinga Reddy said the people's sentiments towards the original name is sacrosanct, and hence the old names were retained. He said the party had not interfered in the delimitation process carried out by the delimitation committee.

However, Sandeep Anirudhan, convener, Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru, said the Congress has done the same mistake that the previous government did, which is changing village boundaries. The village boundaries shown in the village maps should be retained as this will create problems in terms of administration for the general public. For government-related work in their ward, they are forced to travel to offices that, in some cases, are away from their homes. The two parties are not very different when it comes to ward delimitation, he said.

While the previous BJP government reduced the number of the wards in constituencies where the Congress has a presence, the Congress government has now done the same in the BJP constituencies. For instance, in Bengaluru South, number of wards has been reduced from 12 to 11. During the BJP government, the number was increased from seven to 12.

BBMP SITs seek more time to probe 40% bribery allegation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



The Urban Development Department set up four SITs on August 5 and they were told to submit reports in 30 days.

At least two heads of the special investigation teams (SITs) of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) have asked Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar to extend the deadline to complete the probe into 40% bribery allegation in projects sanctioned during the previous BJP regime.

The Urban Development Department constituted four SITs, headed by IAS officers Ujwal Kumar Ghosh, Amlan Aditya Biswas, P.C. Jaffar, and Vishal R., on August 5 and directed them to submit their reports in 30 days. The SITs will probe projects sanctioned between 2019 and 2022 in waste management, road infrastructure, lake development, and storm-water drain departments.

Some teams have commenced the investigation and are analysing statutory clearances given by the government for various projects.

Meeting

A source privy to a closed-door meeting on Friday of SIT heads and the Deputy Chief Minister said, "Mr. Shivakumar sought a comprehensive investigation." He discussed the objective of the probe and the key aspects the teams have to look into to unearth wrong-doings in the projects.

Earlier, Mr. Shivakumar had said that the SITs were formed based on contractors' allegations against the then BJP government about demanding 40% commission on contracts.

Large tranches of files

At least two members in the teams felt that it is impossible to complete the probe in 30 days, as they have to go through a large tranches of files meticulously. This was conveyed to Mr. Shivakumar.

Sources said the Deputy Chief Minister may extend the deadline to accommodate their requests.

Although these teams are dedicated SITs, they will not be having a dedicated office to conduct their investigation. The source said a common place for all teams would be finalised, and that space may be in the Finance Department. The teams have been told to use human resources available in their respective departments while BBMP staff will lend assistance whenever necessary. The source said BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has already done the groundwork of setting aside various files and making other necessary arrangements needed for the probe.

In full flow

Construction work is on near the Gaganachukki waterfalls in Mandya district, which is attracting tourists. K. MURALI KUMAR

Whitefield residents say BBMP action against unauthorised buildings not visible on ground

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Whitefield residents who have been fighting to get buildings which are coming up illegally demolished say that Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) action against such constructions is not visible on the ground despite a recent order mandating owners/builders to display approved building plans.

Mahadevapura Zonal Joint Commissioner had in July issued an order directing owners/builders to display approved building plans in front of the construction site. Although some active residents approached the BBMP to initiate action, notices were not issued, they alleged.

Purushotham, a resident of Whitefield, said there are about 20 under-construction buildings at Prasanth Extension and none of them has displayed the plan. "What is worrying more than their defiance is zero action by the BBMP. None of the owners has been served notices," said Mr. Purushotham, adding that illegal buildings were being constructed in the last few years and hope that the BBMP would act at least this time has fallen flat.

> What is worrying more than the builders' defiance is zero action by the BBMP.
>
> **PURUSHOTHAM,** a resident of Whitefield

Another resident, Rajashekhar Reddy, said if anyone walks on temple road near Nallurahalli, most of the buildings are under construction with non-compliance of the building plan display order. In some sites, the violations are glaringly visible, yet the BBMP has not acted on them, he said, adding that the issue is being raised at every ward committee meeting and apart from promises by the officials, nothing is happening on the ground.

"A senior official in a recent ward committee meeting said that about 96% of buildings are illegal. This shows how the BBMP is running the city," said Aravind Mohan of Whitefield Outer Circle. Mr. Mohan, quoting an example of a violation, said, "One of the buildings being constructed on 1,600 sq.ft has a carpet area of 9,000 sq.ft. The officials can see and issue notices, but they appear to be in no mood to act. Before the BBMP initiates action, construction of such buildings will be completed.

A senior BBMP official said the BBMP has already issued several notices to violators and as per the timeline set by the BBMP Chief Commissioner action will be initiated to demolish the structures.

Man arrested, 19 bicycles recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Malleswaram police on Saturday arrested a 50-year-old habitual offender and recovered 19 bicycles worth ₹5 lakh from him.

The accused, Shekhar, a resident of Srirampura, targeted expensive bicycles. He used to recce the areas posing as a milkman and steal bicycles parked outside houses, the police said. He had stolen a bicycle worth ₹65,000 parked in front of a house. Based on a complaint, the police analysed over 100 CCTV camera footage and tracked him down.

The accused had also sold some bicycles by narrating concocted stories, said the police.

Fire breaks out in two Udyan Express coaches at city station

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A fire broke out in two coaches of the Udyan Express at the KSR Bengaluru Railway Station on Saturday.

According to the Bengaluru division of South Western Railway (SWR), no injuries or casualties were reported as all passengers had disembarked.

SWR CPRO Aneesh Hegde said, "Train number 11301 Udyan Express arrived at KSR Bengaluru Railway Station at 5.45 a.m. on platform number 3. Around 7.10 a.m., smoke was noticed in B1 and B2 coaches. The fire brigade was alerted. Fire brigade personnel arrived by 7.35 a.m. and extinguished the blaze. The incident did not impact the movement of any other train, or other passengers."

Firefighters trying to douse the blaze that broke out in Udyan Express coaches at KSR Bengaluru station. SWR said no injuries or casualties were reported as all passengers had disembarked. PTI

To investigate the fire accident, a committee has been formed by the SWR. "A committee of four officials has been formed to determine the cause of the accident. The officials are from the mechanical, electrical, security, and safety departments," he added.

Shivakumar plans to discuss Ejipura flyover project in Cabinet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After inspecting the incomplete Ejipura flyover project on Saturday, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar said he was contemplating discussing the much-delayed project in the Cabinet to arrange for additional funds.

Mr. Shivakumar said the flyover project that commenced in 2017 was stopped after the completion of 35% of the work. The revised estimate done by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) did not match the demand of a single bidder who participated in the fresh tender. The bidder had asked for an additional 19% for the project.

Spot visit: Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar inspected the much-delayed Ejipura flyover project in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The 2.5-km long flyover, stretching from the junction of Ejipura main road-Outer Ring Road to Kendriya Sadan junction, is expected to cost ₹252 crore. It was originally estimated to cost ₹204 crore. Delays in completion until 2019 has led to the BBMP incurring an additional cost of ₹49 crore. Between 2018 and 2019, the contractor made only 3% progress, and 2% to 10% progress between 2019 and 2023. To complete the remaining portions of the flyover, the palike requires ₹141.6 crore.

Mr. Shivakumar said, "We have to see whether the State can arrange funds to complete the project to ease Koramangala traffic. I will also discuss with the stakeholders and I'm contemplating the possibility of getting funds from the State by placing the project for discussion in the Cabinet. It is unfortunate that the project has been delayed inordinately and we will work towards realising the project."

Police say injured hotel employee from Sikkim cooked up a story of assault

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 31-year-old hotel employee from Sikkim who was walking home after a party and suffered injuries following a fall cooked up a story and tried to mislead the police.

The complainant, Dinesh Subba, came to the city seven months ago with his wife and a three-month-old child and started working in a hotel.

According to the police, he partied till 3 a.m. on August 15 with two of his friends and started walking home. On the way, an inebriated Subba while looking to buy a drink at a juice centre fell down and sustained injuries. A security guard of a nearby residential apartment came to his help and Subba weaved a story that he had been attacked by three persons, accusing him of being a Chinese national.

The security guard alerted the Electronics City police who shifted Subba to a hospital before registering a case of assault. During investigation, the police found CCTV footage which recorded Subba's fall. When the police confronted him again, Subba said he did not remember anything. Meanwhile, news about the "attack" went viral, prompting the Sikkim Chief Minister's office to contact the city police seeking details.

C.K. Baba, Deputy Commissioner of Police, South-east division, who is also the nodal officer for north-east migrant workers in Bengaluru city, said: "We meticulously investigate every aspect of a case. Our initial findings have uncovered a more complex reality. While the complainant alleged an attack by bike-borne individuals, our investigation reveals that he had consumed alcohol and had a fall. The victim partied with his two friends that night when he had a fall and injured himself."

KEA extends last date for choice indication till August 22

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The last date for exercising choice by candidates after successful completion of the first round of seat allotment for professional courses such as medical and engineering has been extended by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) till August 22. In a release on Saturday, the KEA said the choices can be exercised until 11 a.m. on August 22 and that the dates to perform other procedures had also been extended. Candidates can pay their fees till 2 p.m. on August 23 and download the admission orders until 4 p.m. on that day.

SHIVA NAADI, VAITHEESWARAN KOVIL
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. 15 UBL 2023-24
Dated: 10-08-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites Tender for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Sectional Telecommunication Maintenance Contract Hosapete-Londa section (excluding Hosapete & Londa stations) Ginigera - Karatagi, Alanavar-Ambewadi and Hubballi - Karajgi of Hubballi Division.	Rs. 53,25,866.80

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 11-09-2023

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Assistant Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/I/Hubballi

PUB/308/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24

S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

IN The COURT OF THE 72nd ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE
CCH No 73, HG 29-9-2023
Ex.No.25740/2022

BETWEEN:
The Church of South India Trust Association,
Registered under section 25 of companies act, (Charitable institution) having its office at No.5, Whites Road, Royapattah, Chennai-600014. Represented by its Executive Trustee and
Power of Attorney holder
Mr. Yesumithran Asirvatham, Karnataka Interdiocesan A.F & P Board, 6th floor, Unity Buildings, J.C. Road, Bangalore-2.
... Decree Holder

AND

Mr. Prithviraj Deepchand Jain,
No.4, shop No.1 and 2, Ground floor, B-Block, CSI Compound, Unity Buildings, J.C. Road, Bangalore-560002
...Judgment Debtor

Notice for service by Advertisement in Newspaper Under order 5 Rule 20 of CPC to the Judgment Debtor

Notice is hereby given that the above named Decree Holder has filed a Petition for issue of delivery warrant for recovery of vacant possession of schedule premises and decree amount along with interest and cost, a sum of Rs.6,70,730/- towards arrears of rent from you. You are hereby summoned to appear in this court either in person or through a pleader on **29-9-2023 at 11 a.m.** to answer the same, failing which the case will be heard and decided ex parte.

SCHEDULE PREMISES

No.4, shop No.1 and 2, ground floor, B-Block, CSI Compound, Mission Road, Unity Buildings, J.C. Road, Bangalore, bounded on the **East by** Driveway in Unity Building Complex, **West by** premises No.4/1, **North by** premises No.4/9, and **south** passage between B & C Blocks.

Given under my hand and seal of the court, this the 16-08-2023

By order of the court,
Sd/-
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court Mayo Hall, Bangalore.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 30/MYS/2023 of 14-08-2023

Sl.	Item of work	Approx. Value
1	**Sub Work-I**:- Chikajajur- Rayadurga Section: TRR (P) of exg. 52Kg/90UTS Rails with new 60 Kg-110 UTS Rails from Km.1/000 to 34/000, Km.46/000 to Km.69/100, Km.86/000 to 91/500 for a total length of 61.6 Km. **Sub Work-II**:- Through fitting Renewal (TFR) from Km.10/800-10/900, 12/400-12/500, 13/350-13/500, 23/870-25/763, 33/988 - 34/135, 46/00-69/100, 86/00-91/500 for a length of 31.00 Kms between Chikjajur-Challakere Stations.	Rs. 4,19,09,781/-
2	Supply of 60 Kg Alumino thermic welding portions with all accessories as approved by RDSO including supervision.	Rs. 1,36,07,528/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 05-09-2023

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 31/MYS/2023 of 16-08-2023

Sl.	Item of work	Approx. Value
1	**Sub Work-I**:- Mysuru-Repairs to old officers rest house (VIP suite, Suite A, B, C, D & E) and new officers rest house (Ground floor:- Suite F, G, H, I and first floor:- A, B, C, D, A1 & B1) at Mysuru. **Sub Work-II**:Mysuru:- Repairs to officers holiday home at Mysuru. **Sub Work-III**:- Mysuru :- Repairs to officers and staff holiday home at Madikere. **Sub Work-IV**:-Ashokapuram:- Construction of compound wall/boundary wall for Ashokapuram colony. **Sub Work-V**:- Assistant Divisional Engineer/Sakleshpur Sub Div:- Repairs to station buildings and rest rooms at Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road Ghat section stations (Donigal, Kadagaravalli, Yedakumari, Arebetta and Shiribagilu)	Rs. 2,39,42,651/-
2	Hassan-Mangaluru Section: Providing of inspection platform for abutment and pier in Hassan-Mangaluru Section under SSE/Bridges /Sakleshpur jurisdiction (Br. No.15, 23, 28, 37, 43, 56, 118, 186, 187, 246, 256, 281, 283, 287, 289, 297, 322, 327, 328, 335, 367, 385, 400, 446, 474, 485, 507, 578, 582, 593, 597, 613, 630, 366, 484, 500, 577) (Total No. of Bridges - 37 Nos).	Rs. 1,54,84,676/-
3	Hassan-Mangaluru Jn. Section: Providing of side foot path on Bridge No. 23, 185, 186, 366, 367, 385, 446, 484, 500, 507, 539, 577, 578, 582, 593, 597, 613, 630 under SSE/ Bridges /Sakleshpur jurisdiction.(Total No. of Bridges- 18 Nos).	Rs. 97,18,862/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 08-09-2023

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PUB/309/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
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DOCTOR

ALLIANCE INVITED for smart,beautiful,Sunni Muslim Doctor MBBS girl 26 yr /5ft 5inch/ from highly educated family of Indore MP. Contact 9424551504 /9424551746

MUDALIAR 27/160 MBBS MS Chennai seeks PG Doctor Groom CNB Chennai only. Geetham 9884858014

NAIDU, 23/165,Avittam, Makaram M.B.B.S,Fair both parents doctors,own hospital seeks M.D/ M.S doctor groom from TN/Pondy Affluent family Ct:6380069015, 9790288125

SENGUNTHA MUDALIYAR (TN) Bride doing MS (OG) 2nd year.Need doctors groom MS / MD (Clinical), Same Caste / Sub Caste Ct : 94422 30284.

REDDY DOCTOR 32/165 MBBS, MS. Own Health Centre in Chennai, Well Settled Family, CNB. Ph:8925640111

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 34/165 fair pretty cultured & well mannered Chennai based doctors family. Father Doctor Kerala Nair, Mother Tamil CSI. Doctor grooms MD MS MCh DM & Engineers from good family background prfd. 9840050381/ 9840985383

MALAYALAM

EZHAVA GIRL 31, Thrikketta, 158 cm, Kollam, M.Tech, IIT, Govt. Assistant Engineer. Contact: 9387040466

Menon Girl 25/5'4 MA (GM) Pursue for M.Phil. Star Visaka Parent Hyd Settled Seeks Groom within 30yrs any PG / B.Tech / M.Tech/ MBBS. Menon / Nair/ Nambiar Employee Well Settle Good Family: 9640371099, 04027170842

EZHAVA GIRL 32/165 cm, B.Tech. UK Employed. Contact: 9744636872

NRI

NAIR GIRL, 49, US Citizen, Maryland, Invited alliance. Caste / language no bar US residing Boys only contact: 9895824803

SAURASTRA

SOURASHTRA, 25/162, Fair, MBBS Madurai seeks Doctor Groom. Ct: 97901 20220

TAMIL

CSI/CHRISTIAN 37yrs/165 cms B.Tech(I.T), M.B.A, Now CTS (UK). Seeks B.E & BTECH and willing person to settle in Uk Ct: 9443800870

NADAR CHRISTIAN girl from well educated, very rich family, aged 33, MBA, fair, God–fearing, very beautiful ; looking like a 22 year old girl employed in a reputed Company in Chennai, Monthly Salary Rs. 75,000+. The boy should be well educated from Nadar Christian rich family. Parents Contact. 98401 29090

THULUVA VELLALA Mudaliar Girl (PG community medicine) 30, Seeks Groom with UG/PG Medicine Ct: 9443814252

VANIYA CHETTIYAR Aswini Mesam 28/163 MBBS, MD, Pulmonology, seeks Doctor/ IAS/ IPS/ Professional/ Business. Subcast no bar. Call: 8148895304

MUDALIAR: 24/165,V.FAIR, MBBS, MD Doing, Chennai, Having Own Educational Institute, Elite Family, Seeks Groom– PG Doctor/Business– 89390 12419

TAMIL

HINDU MUDALIAR Super Speciality Doctor 34 seeks Doctor / Industrialist groom between 34 & 37. Cast no bar. Ct: 9884202884

VANNIAKULA SHATRIYAR, fair girl, 25yrs/160cm Uthiram– 1 Patham, B.E, M.S (Engg) Australia. Father S.E, (Retd) TNEB. Seek Smart handsome Groom M.S(Engg). Ct: 9789461060

RICH NAIDU 27yrs, B. Tech, MS, Elite Business Family Seeks Suitable Groom 9710093999 / 8939691888

RICH MUDALIYAR 28yrs, MBBS, MD, Well Educated Family Seeks Suitable Groom 9710093999 / 8939691888

NADAR MATRIMONY –IAS, IPS, MBBS, BDS, BE, MBA, Business, Hindu & Christian Ct : 9445286222

CSI NADAR 25 Years Hardware Engineer In Chennai Looking For Well Qualified And Well Employed Christian Groom From A Decent Broad Minded Family Working In India/ Abroad. Contact 9840691230

VANIYA CHETTIAR, M.Sc, 43/157, Karthigai, Govt. Scntf. Officer seeks equally Qualified Employed Groom. Contact: 94452 07116

HINDU NADAR 35, 156cm, MBBS / MD Divorcee Income 200000 Seeks Suitable Groom. 9380791999

SOZHIYA VELLALAR 25 M.Sc., B.Ed., Seeks Suitable boy. Contact : 93842 23791, 74022 30485

SWE BE MNC Chennai 40/167cm 20Lac p.a BC from Coimbatore 1st Marriage Mirugaseerisham Rishaba Rasi seeks Groom BC/FC only. CT: 89394-68628.

RICH NAIDU, 34yrs, BE, Working in MNC, 1.5Lakhs Pm Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9710093999 / 8939691888

SC AD 26/B.E [ECE] Software Engr.{Accenture}67,000p.m. Fair Girl Seeks Groom. Ph & Whatsapp :9444993417

HINDU 29 FAIR B.Tech MS Apple USA seeks USA groom.Ph: 63798 09054. Email: ananth9000@gmail.com

HINDU SC AD 30, MCA Seeks Suitable Groom CNB , Chennai PH: 8072113977 , Brokers Excuse.

ELITE HINDU 30 /Pooradam B.E. (ECE) , Hexaware Techologies., Chennai Seeks Professional Groom. 9500184875

HINDU, SC – Adi dravida, BE MBA female age 31, Working in IT – Accenture. Ph– 9444991091.

MUDALIAR ELITE 23/163 Fair & Beautiful,BE,MBA, Business Family 50Cr. Networth, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

VK KSHATRIYA Hindu Chennai practicing CA girl 31/156 seeks well educated and settled Chennai groom CNB 9500100848 /9840200907

RICH MUDALIYAR, 25yrs, BE, MS, Working in US, 5.5 Lakhs pm. Seeks Suitable Groom 9710093999 / 8939691888

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 31yrs, MBBS, MS (ENT), Working in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Groom 9710093999/ 8939691888

AD, DOCTOR, MD Oncopathologist, 34, Good Family Background, Caste No Bar. Contact: 9342289964, 8940279849

MBBS, MD, MS, MDS, BE, IT, MBA, Business. All Caste, Hindu/Christian1st, 2nd marriage: 9363570731

PG ,24yrs TAMIL Iyer ,Hastham star, Haritha Gothram ,Working in MNC in Chennai.Looking for a suitable Professional Tamil Groom Chennai based.Mob 9444959595 Whatsapp 9444331919

US based Tamil Iyer groom under 32 for Bharadwaj vadama Thiruvathrai, Iyer 5.4/28/UX design NYC working in US. mail: krishnanpr2015@gmail.com Contact: 9972867016.

THE HINDU
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M-Telugu Chettiar (BC).
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Caste No Bar.
Ph: 97911 13913

TAMIL

WANTED GROOM

Tamil Iyer vadama sandilya gothram seeks alliance for two daughters - elder daughter 1996 born completed PG in law & younger daughter 2004 born currently doing final yr BA and preparing IAS. Looking for two own brothers from the same family for daughters seeking alliance from well educated & settled grooms. Army navy and air force alliance preferred.
Mail id:
shiva9306955@gmail.com.

RC NADAR, 25/165cm, very fair, Multi-Millionaire seeks Equal Status, Business RC Boy. CNB. Ct: 94446 87454.

KALLAR GIRL 27yrs / 172cm / Faircomplex / Sadhayam / Kumbam / Doing M.D Course. Alliance Invited from Doctor / Businessman From Decent Family of Mukkulathor / Mudaliyar / Pillai. Cont: 73058 36940 / 97907 22830.

Christian Nadar 25yrs/166cms MBBS working in chennai seek suitable same community, Doctor Pref. 94444 94044.

Vanniyakula Kshtrya, Pooram 32/163 B.tech wrkg-TCS seeks groom fr same Comnty. 9443283821/ 044-28132996

32 Yrs, B.Tech, Mudaliyar, Working in IT. Phone: 89513 84711.

AD 27/160 Dr. BHMS Working seeks groom blw 32yr well settled Edu, Hindu fmly Dr/Er/any govt officer.9444220872

✔ **Thondaimandla Mudaliar** Girl 26/170 B.Arch/UI&UX Designer seeks Groom Contact: 9486380013.

Alliance invited for Girl, 29 yrs, M.S. (USA), Employed in USA on H1B visa. Tamil Yadava. Non Vegetarian. Caste no bar. Email: agswamy@yahoo.co Call / WhatsApp : Govindaswamy 9535728750.

HINDU SC Adi-Dravida 28/156 cm B.E MNC 16L PA seeks suitable Alliance from Govt/ PSU/ IT. Ct: 94441 55781

HINDU SC/AD, July 1981. M.Sc, Banking service seek suitable Alliance. Ct: 9884386092/9952023033/9840505586

TELUGU

TELUGU KUMBHA 1992 B.Sc.(ISM), not working, Fair, Good looking Bride. Seeks Suitable Tamil/Telugu Groom. E–mail to: saraswathi12h@gmail.com

NAIDU: 26/V.FAIR, M.Sc (UK), Doing Business, Having 2 Own Industry in Chennai, Rich Family, Seeks Groom – Business / Eng – 89250 19776

WELL SETTLED 34yrs Fair, Slim BE, SWE, Bangalore. Seeks Settled SWE Groom in Chennai/Bgl/Hyd. 8608260880

NAIDU, 42/150cm, Uthirattathi, Ph.D, Professor, Intercaste, subsecs no bar, Contact: 73581 66806

LOOKING FOR a Brahmin Vegan boy between 25–30 yrs preferably working at B'lore or Hyd for my daughter 24y, fair, BE, working in Hyd 9LPA. Vegans only contact. g2sspk@gmail.com

24 MANAI Telugu Chettiar, Sadhu Chetty Doctor from Coimbatore doing MD good looking Charming Girl 27 yrs seeking Doctor from same community. Ct: 9486590838

KAMMA NAIDU 26/163 Uthiradam MS CS USA, H1B Approved, Working in MNC, 1Cr+/pa, SW Professional, seeks groom MS in US/ well settled business family in Tamilnadu. Ct: 7299346525

REDDY DOCTOR 32/165 MBBS, MS. Own Health Centre in Chennai, Well Settled Family, CNB. Ph:8925640111

Balija Naidu, 27/152cm, PG Graduate fair, MNC Chennai, Seeks well settled Groom below 30yr. Cont: 63809 84534 e - mail: saanvigklr@gmail.com

URDU

CA FINALIST Girl, Muslim Sunni, Shaikh, Sep94, 5'8, Pretty, No Dowry, WFH,Seeks Good Match, 9110335791

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

Christian Anglo-Indian 36yrs / 160cm B.Tech working in Samsung Electronics at Sydney, Australia looking for a suitable Bride. Ct: 98414 62791

AGE 54/165 OBC well educated Pvt Job Healthy & Fit, looking for single lady professional CNB. 7989426490

SINGLE, 59YR, Healthy, educ. Male Offi. 20Lpa, needs educ. Female No Bars & No Mediation novel64nomad@gmail.com 8125651881

COIMBATORE Senior Single Healthy 76 Yrs, PG Engr, Pensioner, Looking for single, Educated with stable income knowing Car and Two Wheeler Driving, age above 58 years as Life Partner. Brokers Excuse. Genuinly interested Contact: 90420-19172.

DIVORCEE

RC MALE 54/165. Post Graduate, Legally divorced, Business. Inviting proposals from qualified suitable alliance. Mob–88913 79459

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 50 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

NRI

NAIDU 28/180CM, Pooratathi, BTech MS Working Research Engr & PR of Sweden, wanted Bride Call 9566682220

TAMIL

RC CHRISTIAN, 41yrs/170, B.E Software Engineer, chennai, never married, seeks professionally qualified bride, CT 9500188067

GAVARA NAIDU, 39/180, Uthiradam, Maharam, B.E.,M.S(Eng) Maintenance Engr. MNC Chennai. 15L PA First marriage seeks Bride. Ct:9487272897

SEEKING SIMPLE, Clean Habits,Vegetarian Bride willing to be Homemaker for our Son Ms(CS) USA,28yrs/178cms,Iyer,Vegetarian & Clean Habits.Financial Status of the Bride does not matter.Ct. WhatsApp:+1 732 372–8410

FAIR, GOOD looking 30y 6ft 2inch boy MBA family business seeks educated girl. SC and Adi Dravidar kindly excuse. Contact : 9850573419.

TAMIL

WANTED BRIDE NADAR / MCA / Software /70000pm /38yrs /173 Ph: 9494003635

✔ **PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR),** DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 23.5 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

RICH MUDALIYAR, 32yrs, M.Tech(I.I.T), Software Engineer, 5 Lakhs pm. 9710093999 / 8939691888

ELITE NAIDU, 29yrs, BE, MBA, Well Educated Family, 5 Lakhs pm. 9710093999 / 8939691888

VANNIYARKULA SHATRIYAN 35 years,6.2 feet, Rohini Star, ME(Hons) Solar Energy Australian Citizenship, Germany PR.Seeks suitable Bride, who is willing to Migrate Germany. Father Manager SBI Chennai. Ct : 9443044556

HINDU NADAR 30, BE, 175cm, Income 250000, Seeks Suitable Bride KA Raman Nadar 9380791999 / 9047192999

SAIVA PILLAI 38,BE/MBA–MNC(Salary–1.5 Lac above) Bangalore Divorcee. Seeks Bride (Strictly 1st Marriage Only) from Thirunelveli Saiva Pillai /karkardhar only. Call: 9344701672/ 8072215374

59, SINGLE, Fair, Healthy, Stable Income, Seeking Decent issueless Bride. No Expectations. Ct: 9360663852

HINDU KONGU Vellala Gounder 36/183 Sadayam, MBA Job &Business 30L P.A. Working Chennai Upper Middle Class. Suitable Girl any Degree & Any Caste in B.C. Whatsapp: 9360323979

HINDU NADAR, Age:42, B.Sc., 40000/pm Divorcee, Kadagam, Poosam, 2 Male Child (Age 11 & 10) seeks Divorced bride in same Nadar Caste with No issues. Caste religion no bar. No expectations. No Brokers. Sasikumar 9840075677

ELITE NAIDU, 31yrs, BE, Working in MNC, 2.5Lakhs Pm Seeks Suitable Bride. Contact: 9710093999/ 8939691888

NAIDU, 38YRS, MBA, QC in Pvt, Income 60000/–pm, Upper Middle, Seeks Suitable Bride 9962791888 / 9710091999

ELITE HINDU Nadar 25, 174cm, B.Arch, Inc 400000 Seeks Bride KA.Raman Nadar 9380791999/ 9047192999

MUDALIAR 29, MTech, 179, Smart, 28Lacs p.a, well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB, Ct.8778514465/ 7200866346

Looking for an Working Professional Bride for Hindu Saiva Pillai Groom Working in Chennai MNC as a Senior Engineer 28/168 cm. Contact 9345580509 / 9500015396.

NADAR 29/178 BE,MS working in USA with clean habits & character, reputed family in Chennai,Seeks Educated, Goodlooking bride from affluent.good family background Ct:9444055509

GOUNDER AYILAM 40/180 B.COM, PGDCA Acts Manager, 30K,pm First Marriage Seeks Bride. CNB Ct: 98847 30594

NAIDU MDS (OMFS) 28/168 Dhanush, Well Settled, Seeks Medical/ Dental Brides.Ct: 9840400867 / 9940392134

✔ **SAIVA PILLAI** / 29 / Karthigai / 166Cms / B.E Working in MNC Chennai Seeks Bride Contact : 9498357132

NELLAI SAIVA Pillai, 33yrs, Kettai, completed schooling in abroad, working in IT, MNC, 18L PA seeks Bride from good family. Ct: 8870800415

M4 BRAHMIN boy 41 yrs, CHN, Veg girl from normal fmly EDU no bar from any state/lang. Ct 9941288955.

SAIVA MUDALIAR 30 BE Remarriage unconsummated Chennai seeks Veg unmarried Bride Geetham 9884858014

ABHISHEK P 27–Dec–94 12:14pm 5ft 10inch fair software NatWest bank UK based Ambattur, Chennai seeking Bride in IT, 9444035227, 9944222245

MUDALIAR ELITE 29/187, Handosme, BE,MS,Project Mgr,150000.USD.PA, 50Cr. Networth,CNB.7299576644,729957666

USA CITIZEN, ME working in Aerospace Industry, Affluent Tamil boy Poorattathi/Kumbam 27/172 seeks Professional Girl from well settled family from Vanniyakula Kshatriya community only. 9840254615/ 9789029966

BRAHACHARANAM NAITHRUVA Kasyapa Graduate 1969 Sept 8th. Aayilyam No sevvai dosham Pensioner Indian Air force Owner of properties. Own residence Decent income and life. Sulur Coimbatore. Never married Bridegroom. Contact no: 9503514223

AD, 32, BE Working in Singapore Good Salary, Good Family Background Caste No Bar Ct:9342289964/ 8940279849

Viswakarma 31/155 Maham M.S., Ph.D (Maths) Scientist, Well settled in **Newyork, USA.** Seeks suitable alliance. Caste no bar.
Cell: **7200771188**
Mail:Vikasjana@gmail.com

BRIDES WANTED (REMARRIAGE)
WANTED BRIDE FOR A RICH, HANDSOME, DIVORCED, OWN BUSINESS. AGE - 34 YRS, STAR MAGAM
9444034460

SEEKING BRIDE for Sozhiya Vellalar/ Pillai–29/170.BA.BL(HONS), Advocate (sub caste No–bar),TN.Ph:8939845694

RICH MUDALIYAR, 31yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Working in MNC, 60,000/– Above. 9962791888/ 9710091999

A WELL settled Healthy Hindu 56, Separated Seeks Elite, broad Minded Independent women Above 45 as Life Partner & Soulmate Nobar 7397087032

IYENGAR AGE 30, Only Son Ht 5.8, fair, B.com Pvt, Salry– 45k Thiruvonam. suitable bride wanted 8939593050

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR, Divorced, 41 Mirugasiridam PhD TN Govt Job Rs 1.25Lakh P/M,170cm,70kg, 7904550883

IYER AYILYAM Baradwajam 40 B.Com 360000 PA Seeks Suitable Girl. Ct: 8012758006.

VADAMA,KASYAPA,Karthigal,Mbbs Doctor,29/182. Parents seek alliance for Iskcon devotee son in Melbourne,Australia from good looking spiritually inclined graduate girls. Email with horoscope and photo to niusarma@gmail.com

Well educated bride for Tamil Iyer Vadama, Sankruti, Anusham MBA 1990 born, 5.4, 20Lac pa, leading pvt bank, Mumbai Ct: 8104870075, 9324694206

IYENGAR MAY 1978 Pusam Star Vadula Gotra Physiotherapist Presently in Toronto Canada Seeks Working Brahmin Bride Contact +91–9811174261 Email ID. santgita@yahoo.co.in

BRAHMIN, 42, Sr. Project Manager Kalpita Technologies Bengaluru seeks any Brahmin girl, Ph: 9487851429

ALLIANCE FROM unmarried Iyer girls for unmarried own business teetotaller Iyer aged 57. Ct: 9447496006

1975 BRAHACHARANAM, Naithurva Kasyapa Gothram, Never married. Based in Virar Mumbai Own business Decent income, Star Avittam Bridegroom. Contact: 9503514223

BRIDEGROOM 1967, Sept Never married, M.Sc Aptech reputed Naadi translator Brahacharanam Naiturva Kasyapa Gothram astrologer Palmist Teetotaler, Star Uthirattathi, Decent income. Based Mumbai. Contact: 98233 75674/ 95035 14223

Hindu Mudaliyar, seeks suitable Bride for Chennai based boy with handsome look, kind & passion. born 1995, 178cm, pooradam star, (No Dosham) MS Software Engineering, IT- Working Decent salary. Contact : 99406 64596.

BRIDE WANTED
6'1", very fair, only son, 31 years, Iyer (Vadamal - Tanjore), Professionally qualified, Managing family owned business, high net worth family. Bride should be well qualified, very good looking and from affluent family willing to settle in Chennai.
Share details to
ganeshvenkat2023@gmail.com

We are looking for an alliance for our Son Contact with details- 9345112418.

CHENNAI BASED Telugu Chettiar 34/170cm, BE, MS employed in Germany (Non -IT) seeks bride from Software Professional willng to work in Germany CNB. Ct: 9940035486 / 9360404579

Hindu Panda Reddy (Veg.FC) 37/193 BE, Soft Engr in IT. Divorcee, No child. seeks umarried & divorcee bride, CNB, veg only. No Expectations.9789164002

K. Hariprakash B.E.; M.E., Manager Reliance Marketing Company (TRENDS), Mettuppalayam (Kunnur), D.O.B 06-06-1989, Only Son, Well She'd family. Father: P. Kailasapathi Retd Prof, Palanisami street, Kavundapadi, Erode-638455. Caste Mudaliar. Contact: 9994197160.

TELUGU

ALLIANCE INVITED from parents of any Naidu/ Chettiar/ BC /FC bride for my son 1981/173 (Divorcee No Issues) BDS, MBA (London), good Networth. PQ/Doctor/Engr preferred. V.J.Naidu6303642577, 9962246305

BALIJA 29/180 cms, Magam, Simma Raasi /BE/ M.S (Ger) working in Germany 51Lpa. Financially Sound. Seeks Suitable Qualified Bride–Sub Sects No Bar. Ct: 9442623203 / 9442838203

Brahmin 44(2nd Marriage) 5'10" Good Looking/MBA,B.E,SWE, 5 Lacs PM/Hyd, Rich Family Seeks Suitable 1st Marriage Bride Call: 9515349877.

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM Urdu: BE, MBA working in a leading bank as Divisional operations head legally divorced, No children looking for suitable Bride with family values. contact 9790902084 for further discussion.

SMU AGE 43 Manager in Shipping Co., Chennai, Unmarried well Settled, Seeks Urdu speaking bride 9094535986

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN - MADHWA, 27, 175 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Hosur. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR, 27, 188 cms, Businessman, MS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

KAMMA, 27, 173 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448344

NADAR, 30, 178 cms, Businessman, MBA, Lives in Pondicherry. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like - minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448344

ADI DRAVIDAR, 27, 185 cms, Businessman, MBA, Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like - minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN - IYER, 27, 157 cms, Scientist, Ph.D, Lives in USA. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like - minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 24, 157 cms, Doctor, MBBS, Lives in Pondicherry. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR, 24, 168 cms, Businesswoman, MBA, Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

PILLAI, 28, 165 cms, Entrepreneur, MBA, Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a match from eminent Family background. Contact: 6366448343

REDDY, 27, 160 cms, Doctor, MD, Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like - minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448344

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 63 66 44 83 47

KANNADA

EDUCATED BRIDE from A Well To Do Family, For Boy 29 Years Self Employed Business From An Affluant Naidu Family From Bangalore, Contact: 9945500472

WANTED BRIDE for Sudhakar, 40, IT, 1 lakh per month. Any Brahmin, No expectations. Contact– 88073 55640.

MALAYALAM

MENON YOUTH, 45/182, Divorced, B.Tech, MBA, well employed, Kochi, invite divorcee or widow. 9633001187.

EZHAVA / Thiyya Boy, 42, Unmarried, M.Sc IT-Executive, Well settled in Coimbatore. Seeks Educated Employed Girl. Ct: 9442214074.

NAIR BOY 29/173, MBBS, MS Doctor, Rohini, seeks Alliance. Phone No.6235183757

TAMIL

HINDU SC AD, 37 /BE /PGD HRM/Director– L&D, Sftwr Co., CHE, Mob: 7824035052

HINDU 58, Widower, Gentlemen, Own Business,6 Lakhs per Annum Well Settled Groom. Seeks Suitable Life Partner. Ct: 9342807004, Caste no bar

HINDU DEVENDIRA kula vellalar M.E., 29/168 Asst. Engg. in PWD seeks suitable bride 88257 93743, 8667380725

MUDALIAR P.PRABHU 29/165 BE, MBA Works in Secretariat Seeks Bride below 25yrs Subset No Bar Ct: 9445267119 / 9940481579/ 9790758494

WANTED BRIDE NADAR/M.Sc./Govt / PGT / 80000pm /39yrs /170 Ph: 9494003635

TAMIL

NADAR MATRIMONY –IAS, IPS, MBBS, BDS, BE, MBA, Business, Hindu & Christian Ct : 9445286222

SEEKING BRIDE for Iyer, Brahacharnam, Uthiradam, Boy 36/5 ft 10 inches, BE, 18 LPA at Chennai 99400 72000/ sriarun2010@gmail.com. Iyer/Iyengar no bar.

WANTED BRIDE from Hindu, Tamil, Pillai(caste no bar), 27 to 31 age group, god believing, education(no bar) for Groom aged 34yrs/5ft 11inch (EPBM, IIM Lucknow), Hexaware Technologies, Bengaluru with 20LPA. Contact Whatsapp +91 9886838893

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIKITHA Sunil Nair, D/o Sunil Ramachandran, R/a No.385/1, 30, Suraj 7th Cross, Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar, Vimanapura, Bangalore-560017 have changed my name to Nikitha Sunil vide affidavit dt: 18.08.2023 sworn before Notary C.V.Earappa, B'lore.

BUSINESS OFFERS

BUSINESS

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‘Zero tolerance for rising road rage cases’

Police Commissioner B. Dayananda to host live sessions on social media every third Saturday to address public enquiries on policing matters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As instances of road rage continue to escalate in Bengaluru, Police Commissioner B. Dayananda has asserted that these incidents are being met with a firm approach. He said that the police are taking strong action, including initiating rowdy sheets against troublemakers, enabling consistent tracking of their activities.

In a live chat on X (formerly Twitter) on Saturday, Mr. Dayananda responded to a query by Navneet Singh regarding the escalating road rage cases. He said, “Incidents of road rage are being dealt with very sternly. Wherever such incidents are reported, the police have detected the cases and apprehended the culprits. Besides, rowdy sheets are being opened in police stations concerned on such hooligans so as to keep track of them. There is zero tolerance for road rage incidents in Bengaluru city. I appeal to citizens to

B. Dayananda

dial #Namma112 in case they are caught up in such a situation. Be rest assured, we are just a call away.”

Srikanth, a participant in the chat, raised concerns about auto drivers and bikers who disregard lane discipline. He said, “Upon asking them, they act rudely, rashly, scold, or even react violently. When travelling with children in the vehicle, such incidents are unwelcome. What are your thoughts on this, and what actions are being taken?”

In response, Mr. Dayananda said, “Road user behaviour is a matter of habit and unfortunately our road users have not yet understood and inculcated the importance of lane discipline. We need to educate them and also enforce such violations more vigorously. We are at it.”

During the one-hour live chat session, social media users brought to his attention a range of concerns, encompassing topics such as encroachments on footpaths, reckless bike wheeling, the dissemination of false information on social media, instances of moral policing, unauthorised paying guest accommodation, cases of domestic violence, and inquiries about the police helpline, 112.

Mr. Dayananda emphasised the utilisation of the police helpline, 112, as a means to engage with law enforcement around the clock. He urged people to use this number to report any unlawful activities or to visit their nearby police stations. He said that citizens could meet him every fourth Saturday during the ‘Masika Janasamparka Divasa’ at predetermined locations. Furthermore, he mentioned that he would be hosting live sessions on social media every third Saturday to address public enquiries pertaining to policing matters.

After a lull, rain makes a comeback in State

According to IMD data, Bengaluru city received 8.2 mm rainfall on Saturday. JAHNAVI T.R.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengalureans out for the weekend were surprised by the sudden showers in the city on Saturday evening. Although there were scattered spells of rain on Friday, heavy rain lashed most parts of the city for around an hour on Saturday. The showers offered a much-needed respite as the mercury levels had risen in the city in the last week.

According to the data available on the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre’s (KSNDMC) Varuna Mitra, Rajmahal Guttahalli in the West zone of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) received about 20.50 mm rainfall (until 7 p.m.) and Nandini Layout in the same zone received 16.50 mm rainfall. Pulakeshinagar, Hagadur, and Bagalakunte were among the wards which also received more rainfall. In the central business district (CBD), many roads were slightly inundated due to the rainfall, making it difficult for pedestrians and motorists to navigate.

This year, during the monsoon, the rainfall in Bengaluru has been less than normal. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru, data shows there is a departure of 68 mm in the seasonal rainfall (from June 1). However, there is going to be light to normal rain in the city for the next two days, officials said. On Saturday, Bengaluru city received 8.2 mm rainfall.

Rainfall occurs throughout the State

“The southwest monsoon has gotten prominent in the State, especially in South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka. There is also a low-pressure area over the coast which has caused the rains,” said A. Prasad, a scientist at IMD Bengaluru. He said that while rain will continue, the temperature in the city will also come down and hover between 28 to 30 degree Celsius.

With active monsoon, many parts of the State have received rainfall over the last two days. The IMD Bengaluru data showed that between Friday and Saturday, Kota in Udupi district received 7 cm rainfall. The IMD had also sounded yellow alerts in Udupi, Dakshina Kannada and Uttara Kannada districts on Saturday. While rainfall is expected to continue in many parts of coastal Karnataka and a few places in the hinterlands, winds at a speed of 30 - 40 km per hour are likely at isolated places over the State in the next two days.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, AUG. 20	
RISE	06:08 SET 18:38
RISE	09:00 SET 21:13
MONDAY, AUG. 21	
RISE	06:08 SET 18:38
RISE	09:46 SET 21:49
TUESDAY, AUG. 22	
RISE	06:08 SET 18:37
RISE	10:33 SET 22:26

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	30	22
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower is likely.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Eight held for kidnapping, extorting ₹15 lakh from tea vendor after his casino win

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hanumanthnagar police on Saturday arrested a rowdy sheeter and his seven associates for allegedly kidnapping a tea vendor to extort ₹15 lakh from him on August 5.

The victim, Tilak Manikanta, 32, had boasted that he had won ₹25 lakh at a casino in Goa and the accused, Karthik, a rowdy sheeter, decided to make quick money from him.

Assuming that Tilak will not file a complaint, the gang kidnapped and tortured him before releasing him the next day after he reluctantly transferred the ransom money, Vinod Bhat, inspector, Hanumanthnagar police station, who probed the case, said. However, Tilak approached the police and filed a complaint. The police swung into action and tracked down the accused, but they managed to give them the slip. The police then got their bank accounts frozen and kept a tab, but the accused escaped to Goa based on the advice of their advocate to run away until they get bail. They switched off their phones but were contacting their family members for updates. This helped the police team finally nab them in Shirdi.

The police recovered ₹12 lakh from the accused. They had already spent the remaining amount on their advocate’s fee and on travel, Mr. Bhat said.

The accused have been booked for kidnapping, extortion, and assault.

They have been remanded in judicial custody.

ZOO AUTHORITY OF KARNATAKA
Office of The Executive Director & Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Zoological Park, Kamalapur
HosapeteTq Vijayanagar Dist, Karnataka State.
Email: eddcfabvzp81@gmail.com Tel No: 08394-295289
No: ABVZP/T.W/MS/Sheet/102/2022-23 Dated:18-08-2023
ITEMWISE TENDER NOTIFICATION
On behalf of the Member Secretary, Executive Director and Deputy Conservator of Forest Department of Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) has published item wise Tender notification forProviding **MS Sheet** for overhanging portion of existing peripheral fencing atShriAtalBihari Vajpayee Zoological Park Kamalapur under the division with KW-4 Conditions & regulations.
Indent No: ZAK/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT11. **Estimated Cost (in Rupees):** Rs.2,75,00,000.00. **EMD (in Rupees):** 4,12,500.00
Tender shall be submitted in e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inlast date of submission of tender is **23-09-2023** within **5.30 PM**. Opening of Technical bid on **25-09-2023** after **11.30 AM** and Financial bid on **29-09-2023** after **11.30AM**.
More details can be obtained from the office of the under signed during office hours. Any amendment of modifications in tender notification will be published on e-procurement portal.
SD/- Executive Director & Deputy Conservator of Forest, AtalBihari Vajpayee Zoological Park Kamalapur, HospetTq, Vijayanagar Dist.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/128/KSMCA/2023-24

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Admission Notice for Job oriented One year PGDC/PDC Courses

Name of the PGDC/PDC course	Course Commences from	Eligibility
POWER PLANT ENGINEERING (1 Year)	18-09-2023	Diploma/B.Tech./B.E/M.Tech./M.E/ in Mech./EEE/EE/ECE/E&I/C&I/Power Engg. and related branches
RENEWABLE ENERGY & GRID INTERFACE TECHNOLOGIES (1 Year)	20-09-2023	Diploma/B.Tech./B.E/M.Tech./M.E/ in EEE/EE/ECE/E&I/C&I and related branches

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Students Welfare Section, Pavate Nagar,
Dharwad-580003. Karnataka Ph. No.(O): 0836-2215216/2215200
Email: directorswkud@gmail.com
Ref: KU/DSW/2023-24 Date: 16-08-2023
E-Tender Notification
THIRD CALL
Fulltime tender is called from the food caterers to prepare and supply food for the period of 11 months to the students residing in various boys and girls hostels under the purview of Karnatak University.

Sl.No.	Details for submission of applications	Date & Time
1.	Date of start of submitting applications	17-08-2023, 17.00 hrs
2.	Last date for the submission of application	25-08-2023, 17.00
3.	Opening of Technical Bid	26-08-2023, 17.05 hrs
4.	Opening of Financial Bid	30-08-2023, 17.05 hrs

Note: For more information please visit **https://www.kud.ac.in** website or contact, Director, Student’s Welfare Section telephone **0836-2215200** during office hours.
Sd/-
REGISTRAR

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
E-Tender Ref No. ECN-23-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites Tenders for the following work:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Lighting arrangement of ROB in Lieu of LC 184B & 185B at Kudachi and Ugharkhurd	Rs. 45,07,570/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 04-09-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/307/AAD/PRB/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
REGIONAL OFFICE No.10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041
No. RO KA-28.0017.0/3/2023-SRE-RO KA Date: 18.08.2023
e-Tender Notice
E-Tenders are invited through e-Procurement portal for Two-Bid system, for construction of Godowns of FCI with PMS at FSD Raichur, FSD Tavaraekoppa, FSD Bellary and FSD Kushalnagar in FCI, Karnataka Region. Notice Inviting Tender and Tender forms are published in the websites **http://eprocure.gov.in/** and **www.fci web.nic.in**. Tenders should be submitted online at **http://eprocure.gov.in/** within **3.00 PM** on **13/09/2023.**
General Manager (KTK)

Karntaka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board. Division: Shivamogga.
Deputy Commissioner’Office Premises,
Shivamogga – 577 201.
Phone: 08182-220246
Letter No.: KWB/Technical/EE/SD/AE-1/UGD-Bhadravathi-Jaibheemnagar-2nd Call/763/23-24 Date: 18.08.2023
Tender Notification
(Only Through e-Procurement Portal)
Item Rate Tender is invited through e-procurement portal: https://kppp.karmataka.gov.in for the work mentioned below from Firms/Contractors who satisfactorily fulfill the Financial and Technical requirements detailed in the Bid Document. Tender **No. in e-procurement;** KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORK_ INDENT 23/CALL-2. **Name of Work:** Work of underground drainage system to houses of Pourakarmikas constructed in Jaibheemnagar in Bhadravathi City under Deposit Contribution Work of Bhadravathi City Corporation. **Approx. Amount put to Tender:** Rs. 62,72,275=34 (Excluding G.S.T.) **Bid Security:** Rs. 1,50,000=00 **Tender Processing Fee:** As per e-procurement portal.
Tender Schedule: 1) Last date and time for receipt of Tenders: 02.09.2023 up to 17.30 hrs. **2)** Date of opening the Tender: 05.09.2023 after 11.00 hrs.
For further details the office of the undersigned can be contacted during office hours or contact e-procurement help line: 080-25501216/25501227, e-mail: hphelpdesk@intarvo.com
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
K.U.W.S. & Drainage Board, Division, Shivamogga.
DIPR/smg/No.59/08/ksmca/23-24/343

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com ; Tel / Fax:- 0680-2404287)
At:-Ambapua, Po:-Engineering School Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/37-2023-24/BPR

Identification No.	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 37-2023-24/ BPR	Road Works under Special Assistant to States Capital Investment (SACI) for the year 2023-24	22 Nos	From Rs. 522.30 Lakhs to Rs.1642.50 Lakhs	“A” Class & “Special ” Class as applicable	11 (Eleven) & 12 (Twelve) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur.	Online Tender / 37-2023-24 / BPR	24.08.2023 at 10.00 A.M.	07.09.2023 upto 3.00 P.M.

(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.
Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website : - www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Sd/- P.K.Jena, **Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur**
O-690: OIPR-25071/11/0039/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI
Phone:-06842 254004 E-mail : sernbphulbani@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No.CCE_R and B_PLB_08 of 2023-24
No. 1477 Dated : 07/08/2023

1.	The **Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani** on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate bid** in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for construction of the **Bridge works** as detailed in the table below from eligible contractors.		
2.	Nature of work	:	**Bridge Works.**
3.	No. of tenders	:	**Two Nos**
4.	Tender Cost	:	**Rs.10,000/-** (through online) only.
5.	Class of Contractor	:	**A & Special Class**
6.	Date & Time of sale & receipt of Bids	:	**10.00 AM of 21.08.2023 to 5.00 PM of 31.08.2023**
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	**11.00 AM** of **01.09.2023**
8.	The Bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.		

Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani.
B-724: OIPR-34129/11/0010/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR.
e - Procurement NOTICE

1.	Name of Work	:	**Construction of Bridge works under BSY for the Year 2023-24**
2.	No. of Work	:	**2 (Two)** bridge Work.
3.	Time for Completion varies from	:	**12 (Twelve)** to **18 (Eighteen)** calendar months
4.	Approximate Estimated Cost varies from	:	**Rs.373.01 lakhs to Rs.783.25 lakhs**
5.	Mode of Submission of tender	:	Tender should be submitted online in **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
6.	**Other details are as follow**		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir.	BLGR-Online-16/2023-24	25.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	08.09.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	07.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	11.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders later on

- Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

Sd/- D.K.Seth, **Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir**
O-684 : OIPR-25118/11/0024/2324

Government of Odisha
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna
1st Corrigendum Notice Bid Identification No. BPT/ONLINE-14/2023-24
No.1522 Dt.18/08/2023
The 1st Corrigendum to the TCN of Bid Identification No. BPT/Online-14/2022-23 and this office letter No. 1367 dt. 07.08.2023, the revised date and time are as below :

Sl.No.	Item	Time schedule as per Original TCN	Time Schedule as per corrigendum notice
1.	Availability of tender Online for bidding	11.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 25.08.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	24.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 04.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
2.	Date and time of seeking tender clarification if any	11.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 24.08.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	24.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 02.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
3.	Date & time of opening of tender	28.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	05.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, Rural Works Circle, BHAWANIPATNA
O-692: OIPR-25102/11/0024/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer,
Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi
(email Id : se_sicpkd@yahoo.com)
“e” PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.- ACEVNB-03/2022-23

1.	Type of Works	C.C. lining of canal and Canal road works.
2.	Total number of Packages	6 (Six) Nos.
3.	Estimated Cost	Rs.347.50 lakhs to Rs.649.80 lakhs
4.	Bid Identification No.	ACE,VNB(HID)-03/2023-24 to ACE,VNB(HID)-08/2023-24
5.	Period of completion	10 (Ten) months to 12 (Twelve) months
6.	Availability and submission of Bids online	From 11.00 AM of 24.08.2023 to 5.00 PM of 08.09.2023
7.	Date of Opening of Technical Bids	11.09.2023 at 11.30 AM in the O/O the Additional Chief Engineer, Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi.
8.	Procurement Officer	Additional Chief Engineer, Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi.
9	Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in** and any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation will be published in the said website.	

Additional Chief Engineer, Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi.
A-463: OIPR-32417/11/0004/2324

Government of Odisha
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer ,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, Bhawanipatna
NOTICE
FOR PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Notice for PMGSY-Batch-II
Bid identification No. BPT/Online-19/2023-24
The Chief Construction Engineer, R. W. Circle, Bhawanipatna on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads & bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the districts of **Nuapada for 01 (One)** number of package with estimated cost totaling to **Rs.2.74 Cr** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with **State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways**. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract
Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement.dtd.**22.08.2023**.
Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved format (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB with **C.C.E., R. W. Circle, Bhawanipatna** / Concerned Executive Engineers, R.W.Division (as per Tender Call Notice) on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.
Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 04.09.2023 upto 5.00 PM
For further details please log on to **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**
CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna
O-696: OIPR-25102/11/0026/2324

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49960 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Govt. favours providing local food varieties at Indira Canteens in all ULBs; decision on Bengaluru pending

Actual cost of breakfast and two meals a day will be ₹62, however, consumers will continue to pay ₹5 for breakfast and ₹10 each for the two meals; govt. to provide subsidy of ₹37 to ensure consumers get food at cheaper rates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Saturday decided to initiate measures to ensure that local variety of food was given at Indira Canteens in all urban local bodies (ULBs); however, a decision in this regard is yet to be taken with respect to Bengaluru.

The meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, stressed the need for providing regional variety of food like *ragi mudde,* among others.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said that suppliers would be asked to provide breakfast and two meals at a total cost of ₹62. The consumers will continue to pay ₹5 for breakfast and ₹10 each for the two meals, which together adds up to ₹25 per day.

The government will provide a subsidy of ₹37 to ensure that consumers get food at cheaper rates.

A sum of ₹21.29 crore had been sanctioned for repair work of 197 Indira Canteens. He said 188 new Indira Canteens would be established in different ULBs.

Indira Canteens were started to provide subsidised food to the poor. FILE PHOTO

Indira Canteens were started during the Siddaramaiah government for providing subsidised food to the poor and unorganised sector workers in urban areas of the State and end hunger.

Dismissed from service

Pappanna, Additional Secretary, Department of Personnel Administrative Reforms (DPAR), has been dismissed from government service on charges of receiving bribes.

The Public Works Department has been asked to rework a DPR prepared for the construction of a road between Kalmal Junction in Raichur and Sindhanur connecting Ballari-Lingasugur road. The estimated cost of the road is ₹1,695 crore. The road would be developed on hybrid annuity mode.

The Cabinet has authorised the Chief Minister to sanction five acres of land for the Karnataka Basketball Association at Gobbaragunte in Devanahalli taluk on the outskirts of Bengaluru, Mr. Patil said.

It has been decided to rename the Sangama village in Hunagunda taluk in Bagalkot district as Koodala Sangama in the revenue department records.

A sum of ₹27.28 crore has been sanctioned for construction of a hostel at Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Kodagu, and ₹138 crore has been sanctioned for construction of 450-bed hospital attached to the Gadag Institute of Medical Sciences, Gadag.

Administrative approval was given for utilisation of ₹146 crore under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund of NABARD for lifting water from the Tungabhadra river to villages of Raichur taluk. A sum of ₹78.13 crore has been sanctioned for strengthening of education from class one to class IX in government schools, Mr. Patil.

With regard to a pending case in the Supreme Court on supply of nutrients to anganwadi centres by a supplier, the government has decided to deposit ₹274 crore to hear the case on the merit.

Following the Supreme Court directive, the Cabinet has decided to seek four-weeks' time to deposit the money, Mr. Patil said.

The supplier had challenged the government's decision to stop supply of nutrients to the centres under the Integrated Child Development Services of the Women and Child Development department and the supplier had moved to the apex court.

Mr. Patil said a decision has been taken to appoint H.G. Nagarathna, sessions court judge (retd), as the legal adviser to the Women and Child Development Department of the State.

M.R. Seetharam, Umashree, and Sudham Das nominated to Council

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has nominated former Ministers M.R. Seetharam and Umashree, and H.P. Sudham Das, former Indian Revenue Service officer, as members of the Legislative Council.

The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms Secretariat has issued a notification and said the Governor nominated three candidates to the Legislative Council by exercising powers under Article 171 of the constitution.

Recommendation opposed

It may be noted that Home Minister G. Parameshwara, Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa, and Minister for Excise R.B. Thimmapur had written to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge opposing the recommendation of Mr. Das by the government.

They said Mr. Das's contribution to the Congress party is "nil" and "requested to consider personalities who have relentlessly worked for decades in the party and loyal soldiers of the party".

FIR against Nadda for election code violation is a classic case of reckless registration of crime: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

J.P. Nadda

The complaint of election code violation registered against BJP national president J.P. Nadda during the Assembly election campaign is a classic instance of 'reckless registration of a crime,' said the High Court of Karnataka.

"The complaint is so vague that it would daunt vagueness itself. On such a vague complaint, a case was registered and the Damocles' sword was left hanging on the petitioner projecting it to be an offence," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations in a recent order allowing a petition filed by Mr. Nadda. The BJP national president had questioned the legality of registration of an FIR against him by Harappanahalli police in Vijayanagar district in May this year.

An officer of the Election Commission of India flying squad had lodged the complaint alleging that Mr. Nadda had indulged in undue influencing and threatening of electors while addressing an election rally at Harappanahalli.

However, the court on examining the contents of the complaint, pointed out that the narration in the complaint itself nowhere makes out any offence against the petitioner that would become punishable under Section 171F of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for indulging in undue influence and personation at an election.

For an incident to become an offence under Section 171F of IPC, the minimum requirement is narration in the complaint of the ingredients of undue influence or personation, but the complaint is so vague that it would daunt vagueness itself, the court pointed out.

If further probe is permitted to continue on such a complaint against the petitioner, it would become 'a classic case of permitting investigation in a reckless registration of crime which on the face of it, would become an abuse of the process of law,' the court said, quashing the FIR.

Speculations on defection by legislators trigger a war of words between BJP and Congress leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The episode of speculation about the possibility of a few BJP legislators returning to the Congress triggered a war of words between the leaders of the two parties on Friday even as a BJP MLA, who is speculated as getting ready to join the Congress, turned up at the BJP State office and claimed that he did not have plans to change political loyalty.

Taking serious exception to the reported moves to woo party MLAs by the Congress, BJP leader C.T. Ravi questioned the need for it as the Congress has full majority and warned that the BJP will not keep quiet if its MLAs are wooed by the Congress.

In an obvious reference to four Ministers writing to the party high command against recommendation to nominate a former Enforcement Directorate official to the Legislative Council, he said such an episode was a clear indication that everything was not alright in the government. Alleging that the ruling Congress was not in a position to keep its senior MLAs together, he said the party government should focus on good administration rather than inducing political desertions.

Launching a counter attack, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar wondered how the BJP could oppose any of its MLAs joining the Congress when it has indulged in political defections when it was in power. Without commenting on the speculations about a few BJP MLAs getting ready to join the Congress, Mr. Shivakumar only said that it would not be possible to prevent anyone from taking a call on their political future.

Earlier, former Minister S.T. Somashekhar visited the BJP State office in Bengaluru and met Mr. Ravi. Mr. Somashekhar remarked that he is physically and mentally in the BJP. He said he had discussed issues related to the constituency with Mr. Ravi and maintained that he had not attended the Friday's meeting convened by the party due to preoccupations.

Leopard captured

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The officers of the Forest Department have captured the leopard at Bikkonahalli in Shivamogga, where a woman was killed on August 8. The male leopard was caught in a cage placed in the village on Saturday. The officers said it had attacked and killed Yashodamma, 42.

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF ANDHRA PRADESH
IGMC STADIUM, LABBIPETA, VIJAYAWADA

Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh requires the following Recruitment of Social media agency for Design, Development, Testing and maintenance of social media works towards Aadudam Andhra Program under QCBS method for a period of 3 months:

S. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated cost Rs.in. Lakhs	Period of completion up to
1	Selection of social media agency for Design, Development, Testing and maintenance of social media works towards Aadudam Andhra Program under QCBS method	40.00 (excluding GST)	3 Months

Please check eligibility and engaging terms and conditions at our website **https://sports.ap.gov.in/#/** & **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** . The eligible candidates may submit the applications and tender date starts from **19.08.2023 (3.00 PM)** to **22.08.2023 (3.30 PM)**, For further details contact: **9440818026**, Mail ID: **serb_vjwd@yahoo.co.in**

Sd/- Vice Chairman & Managing Director
DIPR RO No.2286PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt: 19/08/2023

G20 nations will collaborate on cybersecurity, DPI, and skilling, says Ashwini Vaishnaw

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The four-day G20 Ministers and officers meeting on digital economy concluded here on Saturday with an "absolute consensus" between member countries to collaborate and focus on three areas: Digital public infrastructure, cybersecurity, and skilling for digital technology, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said.

There was complete and absolute consensus in the meeting on the concept and application of digital public infrastructure, the Minister said.

"It was clearly agreed and understood by all member countries that cyber/digital security and information security was extremely critical and there was a need to work together. These are international issues and collaboration is a must and that is the consensus,'' Mr. Vaishnaw said.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw speaking at the G20 Digital Economy Ministers' meeting in Bengaluru on Saturday. ANI

Mr. Vaishnaw, who was addressing a media conference, said there was clear consensus during the G20 Digital Economy Minister Meeting (DEMM) that cybersecurity was an international problem, requiring active collaboration and bold steps for building trust and respect for other economies.

He said an issue like cybersecurity could not be fought individually and in isolation as it is a global threat. All member countries have agreed that there was a need to work together to combat cyberthreats, he added. "Globally, we must take steps, to safeguard, protect each other, to build trust, and respect each others' economies, and also to build an overall deterrence against activities that are threatening somebody's economy,'' he pointed out.

He said the Department of Telecommunication had busted a cyberfraud in May and blacklisted and deactivated some 5.5 million SIM cards in the country. The government also blacklisted 40,000 fraudulent point of sale dealers and filed 300 FIRs.

"No person can be given a SIM without proper Know Your Customer verification. Anyone who violates this will be held accountable," he said. The Union government is open-minded and willing to consider suggestions from the Industry, civil society, stakeholders, the media, and citizens regarding how to control cyberfrauds and build a safe digital society, he said. "Many of our reforms are based on your suggestions, and we are happy to hear from you again," he said.

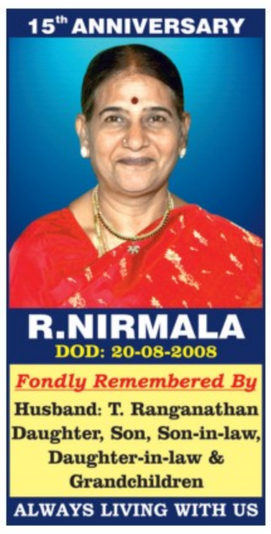
In terms of skilling for digital, Mr. Vaishnaw said the G20 community has understood the importance of skilling for digital inclusion. "All of us have agreed that skilling has to be scaled up on a war footing."

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

T.S. RAJU (68) , Retired Senior Supervisor, Office Aides,The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 18-08-2023. Address: 43, Kasturibai Nagar I Street, Anakaputhur, Chennai- 600070. Contact: 99402 39724

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES


15th ANNIVERSARY

R.NIRMALA
DOD: 20-08-2008
Fondly Remembered By
Husband: T. Ranganathan
Daughter, Son, Son-in-law, Daughter-in-law & Grandchildren
ALWAYS LIVING WITH US

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮಹರ್ಷಿ ವಾಲ್ಮೀಕಿ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ನಂ 10, 3ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಖಾದಿ ಭವನ, ಜಸ್ಟಾದೇವಿ ಭವನ ರಸ್ತೆ, ವಸಂತನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560052.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 29901193 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ mdkmvstdc@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಮವಾಪಪಂಅನಿ/ಸಿ&ಆ/ಸಿಆರ್-30/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.08.2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮಹರ್ಷಿ ವಾಲ್ಮೀಕಿ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಚೇರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 'ಸಿ' ಮತ್ತು 'ಡಿ' ಸಮೂಹದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲದ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಹೊರ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.08.2023 ರಂದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು 15.09.2023ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
DIPR/CP/986/Zenkar/2023-24

Rajiv Gandhi's dreams for rural India yet to be fulfilled: H.K. Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation, and Tourism H.K. Patil said that through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, the rural areas of the country have been empowered, but former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi's dreams towards rural India have not been fulfilled even after 75 years of Independence.

He said it is regrettable that the slogan of Rajiv Gandhi 'power to the people' has not been completely transformed due to lack of devolution of 3 Fs - Functions, Functionaries and Finances, to the Panchayati Raj Institutions by majority of State governments. To achieve sustainable development and progress in villages, the State governments should implement all provisions in the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, irrespective of party politics, said Mr. Patil.

He was speaking at the inauguration of a seminar organised by AGRASRI in Bengaluru.

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017.
Phone No:9448994705 Website: www.cescmysore.org Email:gmpurc@cescmysore.org

NO:CESC/GM(P)/DGM(P)/AGM(P-2)/2023-24/8947 **Date: 18-08-2023**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Portal Only)

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for Service as mentioned below:

Sl.No.	Particulars	Enquiry No./ Date
1.	"Providing motor vehicle service with driver on monthly rental basis to officers working in O & M Chamarajanagara-Kodagu Circle CESC for a period of One year"	C2-5480/03.07.2023

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after **19-08-2023.** For clarification contact help desk **+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777** or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

Sd/-
General Manager (Procurement), CESC, Mysuru.
DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/222/2023-24

"Form No. INC-26"
[Pursuant to rule 30 the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the company from one state to another
BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
(REGIONAL DIRECTOR, SOUTH EAST REGION)

In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of **FREELANCE FISH MEAL AND OIL PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office at #2-284(2) Freelance Palace Near Petrol Bunk Kundapura Taluk Navunda Udupi 576224, Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on Wednesday, 09th day of August, 2023 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "State of Karnataka" to "State of Maharashtra".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director at the address 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhavan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad-500068, Telangana within fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

"#2-284(2) Freelance Palace Near Petrol Bunk Kundapura Taluk Navunda Udupi 576224"

For and on behalf of the **Freelance Fish Meal And Oil Private Limited**
Director
GUJJARBETTU EBRAHIM BEARY
DIN: 06788910

Date: 18.08.2023
Place: Udupi

Pipeline work leads to vast megalithic site in Kerala

Abdul Latheef Naha
MALAPPURAM

A large number of megalithic hat stones were found from a single site during a recent salvage excavation conducted by the Kerala State Archaeology Department at Nagaparamba in Kuttippuram village, near Tirunavaya, in Malappuram district.

Hat stones, popularly called *Thoppikkallu* in Malayalam, are hemispherical laterite stones used as lids on burial urns during the megalithic period.

Archaeologists say the discovery at Nagaparamba could arguably be the largest number of hat stones in an unprotected site in the State.

Many hat stones are feared to have been destroyed inadvertently by the local people in recent times. Some say they had no idea about the archaeological relevance of hat stones and many were destroyed when they cleared their land for house construction.

"We need to conduct a detailed survey and document the finds as well as the site," says K. Krishnaraj, archaeologist and officer in charge of the Pazhassi Raja Archaeological Museum, Kozhikode, who led the recent salvage excavation at Nagaparamba.

Key to past: An archaeologist examining a rock cut burial chamber at Nagaparamba in Malappuram district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It all began when Mr. Krishnaraj and his colleagues were called in when a unique rock cut laterite burial chamber was found during the laying of water supply pipelines. A large number of megalithic burial sites and relics were found during the excavation. The team salvaged numerous earthen urns

Hat stones were found in abundance at Nagaparamba in Malappuram district

and iron implements with unique features, which could throw light on the life and culture of people who lived in those parts over 2,000 years ago.

Ashes found in pots

"The architectural features of the rock cut cave are different. The pots we recovered too are different from the usual urns found in such sites," says Mr. Krishnaraj. Ashes were found in the pots recovered from the chamber as well as from under the hat stones. "We used to get cremated bones from the urns. The ashes we found are special," he says.

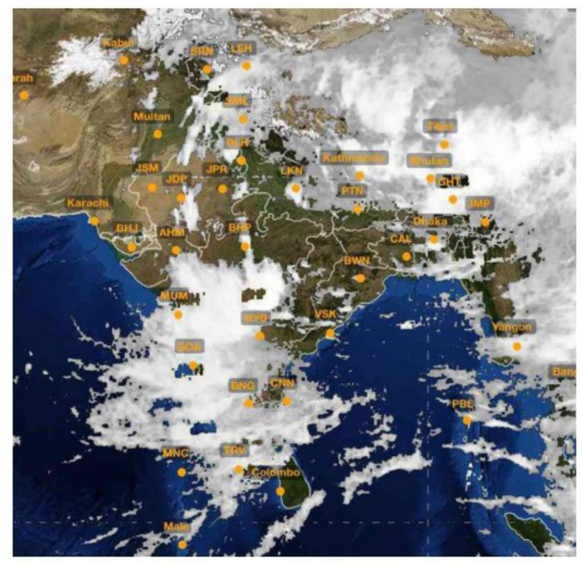
Call for heritage status

Archaeological sites are aplenty in Tirunavaya and its neighbourhoods. With the latest discovery, local people feel Tirunavaya deserves heritage status.

"The government should consider the historic significance of Tirunavaya on the banks of the Bharathapuzha and declare it a heritage village," says Salman Karimbanakkal, a teacher and archaeology enthusiast.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Light/moderate fairly widespread rainfall/ thunderstorm and lightning with isolated heavy rainfall activity very likely over Sub-Himalaya West Bengal, Sikkim and Madhya Pradesh. Hot and humid weather is likely to prevail over Tamil Nadu

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1.0	34.7	26.6	Kozhikode	6.0	31.2	24.4
Ahmedabad	—	33.4	25.8	Kurnool	—	32.0	26.0
Aizawl	18.0	32.5	21.0	Lucknow	10.0	34.9	27.0
Allahabad	—	35.0	28.2	Madurai	—	38.7	25.5
Bengaluru	—	29.0	21.1	Mangaluru	50.0	25.9	23.4
Bhopal	37.0	27.8	22.8	Mumbai	0.7	30.6	26.8
Bhubaneswar	3.2	32.7	25.2	Mysuru	—	32.6	22.0
Chandigarh	—	35.8	27.2	New Delhi	10.8	34.8	24.6
Chennai	—	35.9	28.3	Patna	—	34.2	28.2
Coimbatore	—	33.0	23.0	Port Blair	—	31.3	26.2
Dehradun	0.2	34.4	23.6	Puducherry	—	37.2	27.4
Gangtok	18.0	23.5	18.9	Pune	0.5	29.2	23.4
Goa	15.0	30.4	23.6	Raipur	64.6	32.5	23.5
Guwahati	—	34.0	25.6	Ranchi	20.0	28.8	23.0
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	2.0	25.7	18.5
Hyderabad	8.2	27.4	21.6	Shimla	20.0	26.2	20.5
Imphal	1.0	29.8	21.7	Srinagar	—	32.5	18.6
Jaipur	0.6	34.0	26.2	Thiruvananthapuram	8.0	32.8	23.8
Kochi	7.0	30.0	25.0	Tiruchi	—	37.1	26.6
Kohima	—	23.4	18.4	Vijayawada	2.0	31.4	25.7
Kolkata	2.0	32.2	27.2	Visakhapatnam	0.4	30.6	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	51	48	59	208	
Bengaluru	5	14	97	34	24	
Chennai	5	54	64	91	79	
Delhi	5	5	92	142	188	
Hyderabad	28	124	29	37	—	
Kolkata	4	12	19	17	42	
Lucknow	17	7	6	64	46	
Mumbai	5	—	102	—	40	
Pune	—	28	49	126	104	
Visakhapatnam	13	33	53	67	92	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Surat, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 384 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

A.P. govt. to look into deportation of students

Following the deportation of some Telugu students from the United States due to alleged discrepancies in visa documentation, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday directed the officials to initiate an inquiry into the matter, according to a release. Venkat S. Medapati, Adviser to the Government of Andhra Pradesh and president of APNRT Society, said a help centre had been set up to address the issue. Students in need of assistance can reach out to APNRT Society's helpline numbers +91 863 2340678 and +91 85000 27678 (WhatsApp), available 24/7, or via email at info@apnrts.com and helpline@apnrts.com. The current estimate is that 21 Telugu students from A.P. and Telangana had been affected. APNRT Society was actively working to determine the exact number and gather their details, as directed by the CM.

Kerala byelection campaign turns into a political slugfest

Cong. MLA alleges that CM's daughter evaded tax on payments received from a mining firm and that no returns were filed though her firm's audit report showed foreign currency transactions

G Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

What started as a held-back contest between the Communist Party of India (Marxist)'s Jaick C. Thomas and the Congress's Chandy Oommen for the Puthuppally Assembly constituency in Kerala has descended into a pugnacious political slugfest.

The gloves seem to come off with Congress leader Mathew Kuzhalnadan, MLA, taking a swing at Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his family, and his

Mathew Kuzhalnadan

office at a press conference in Kottayam on Saturday.

He accused Mr. Vijayan's daughter and businesswoman Veena Vijayan of evading IGST (Integrated Goods and Services Tax) on "questionable" payments she received from a mining firm based in Kochi from 2016 to 2020.

Mr. Kuzhalnadan, apparently stung by the "land-grab and tax evasion" charges raised against him by the CPI(M), has emerged as the spearhead of the Congress's anti-government campaign.

He theatrically emailed Finance K.N. Balagopal at the press conference, asking the government to "recover the tax Ms. Veena owed the treasury". Mr. Kuzhalnadan also pointed out that an I-T statutory body had ruled that Ms. Veena had rendered no tangible service to the mining firm to justify the payment. He claimed that her firm's audit report showed foreign currency transactions. "Nevertheless, the firm has not filed a return on service export," he said.

Earlier, Opposition leader V.D. Satheesan sought a probe against Mr. Vijayan for "causing ₹36-crore loss to the exchequer by granting an interest-free mobilisation advance to a consortium of CPI(M)-favoured firms tasked with implementing the KFON Internet connectivity project".

Govt. sacrificing interests of people of Karnataka on Cauvery issue: Shobha

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Farmers in Mandya, Mysuru, and residents of Bengaluru will face water shortage if the State government releases Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu for political reasons, said Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Shobha Karandlaje.

Speaking to presspersons in Chikkamagaluru on Saturday, Ms. Karandlaje said: "If the State government releases Cauvery water just because they (DMK in Tamil Nadu) are part of I.N.D.I.A, farmers of Mandya and Mysuru and residents of Bengaluru will face shortage of drinking water in the coming days."

Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Shobha Karandlaje. FILE PHOTO

She opined that the State government had not come out strongly on the issue. "The government should have made it clear that there is a drought situation in many places in the State and dams had not received adequate inflow due to dip in rainfall. The government should try to convince the neighbouring State about the facts and also ask Tamil Nadu to send a team to review the situation. However, there have been no such attempts so far," she said. Further, she accused the State government of sacrificing people's interests for political reasons. "The government is bothered only about politics," she alleged.

"We are already facing shortage of power. If this is the situation now, how will the State manage power requirement during summer? I urge the government to release a White Paper on the status of power generation and the Energy Department's plan to manage power requirements until May 2024," Ms. Karandlaje said.

The scent of Onam

Festival colours: Flowers kept for sale at a temporary stall in Kochi on Saturday. Though markets are flooded with flowers from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for the festival on August 29, locally grown blooms are stealing the show in a few districts this time. THULASI KAKKAT

Telangana govt. scraps road tax exemption on electric cars

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

The road tax exemption available for electric cars in Telangana has been replaced with a levy ranging from 11% to 15%, a move that could deter many potential EV buyers.

Road tax, also referred to as life tax, is levied by the Transport Department at the time of registering a vehicle. "Their policy has changed. Till recently there was zero tax, now they have [introduced] life tax depending on the electric car's price points," MG Motor India deputy managing director Gaurav Gupta said, adding that he was hopeful that the government would revisit the move.

While government officials did not respond to messages, sources in the automobile industry confirmed the new levy. The decision comes even as there is a growing emphasis by the government to promote the State as a preferred destination for e-mobility sector.

Though not unexpected as the State government had earlier set a cap on the number of electric cars eligible for exemption, the levy could make those looking to purchase such vehicles reconsider their plans.

The road tax on electric cars is 11% for those below ₹10 lakh ex-showroom price; 14% for those in ₹10-20 lakh range; and 15% for cars above ₹20 lakh. An additional 2% levy is applicable if the person already has a car registered in his name or if the buyer is an organisation.

Couple from Davangere, son, found dead at home in Baltimore, Maryland

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

An engineer couple from Davangere and their son have been found dead in their residence at Baltimore in the state of Maryland of the U.S. on Friday. Shocked family members have approached the local administration for help.

The couple have been identified as Yogesh, 37, his wife Pratibha, 35, and son Yash, 6. Both Yogesh and Pratibha were engineers residing at Baltimore for the last nine years.

The engineer-couple and their son. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The family members received the message of their death by the Baltimore Police. They were found dead at home and the police suspect suicide. The cause is not yet known, a relative told presspersons.

Yogesh' parents are from Halekal village in Jagalur taluk of Davangere district and were residing at Vidyanagar in Davangere for the last 25 years. As Yogesh's father had passed away a few years ago, his mother had been living alone in Davangere.

After hearing the shocking news, Yogesh's mother and other family members approached the administration and police on Saturday seeking help. The officials have informed them about the procedure to be followed for getting the mortal remains, sources said.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

Will curb human-wildlife conflict on Tirumala route: A.P. Minister

The Hindu Bureau
CHITTOOR

Govt. is waiting for a report on TTD's plan to erect a permanent fence along the footpath, he says

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Forests Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy on Saturday said the State government would initiate appropriate measures to prevent man-animal conflict along the Tirumala trekking route. His remark comes after the recent killing of a six-year-old girl by a leopard on the route.

He said that the "unfortunate incident" took place in the forest zone under the jurisdiction of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). "We are awaiting a detailed report from the TTD regarding the proposal to erect a permanent fence along the footpath from Tirupati leading to Tirumala. Based on that, we will approach the Director-General (Forests and Environment) in New Delhi for consent," he said.

Mr. Ramachandra said the two leopards, suspected to have turned into man-eaters, had been caught and sent to the SV Zoo Park for rehabilitation.

"The State government is committed to extending all assistance to the TTD in finding a scientific solution to the man-animal conflict in the Tirumala forests," he said.

The Minister added that the State government had already provided an *ex-gratia* of ₹5 lakh to the family members of the girl.

Earlier, a six-year-old boy had a narrow escape after he was attacked by a leopard on June 22 when he was going to the temple.

From Page One

Modi seeks a secure digital economy

"We have used the power of JAM trinity – Jan Dhan Bank accounts, Aadhaar and Mobile – to revolutionise financial inclusion in India. Every month, nearly 10 billion transactions take place on UPI, our instant payment system. More than 45% of the global real time payments happen in India," Mr. Modi said, emphasising that the digital system in India had brought "probity" into the governance system.

Digital transformation unprecedented
"India's digital transformation over the last nine years is unprecedented. It all started with the launch of our Digital India initiative in 2015. It is powered by our unshakeable belief in innovation. It is driven by our commitment to speedy implementation and it is motivated by our spirit of inclusion – leaving no one behind," Mr. Modi said.

He announced that India was building "Bhashini" an AI-powered language translation platform that would be available in all Indian languages.

'Testing lab'
"India is an incredibly diverse country. We have dozens of languages and hundreds of dialects. It is home to every religion in the world and innumerable cultural practices from ancient traditions to latest technology. India has something for everyone. With such diversity, India is an ideal testing lab for everyone. A solution that succeeds in India can be easily applied anywhere in the world," the Prime Minister said.

Raptors make power towers their home

Feeding mainly on sea snakes and fish, the bird is occasionally seen in inland waters along tidal rivers and in freshwater lakes. It occupies the same localities for years and generally builds nests in tall trees near the seacoast, tidal creeks, and estuaries.

Team behind the study
The authors of the study are H. Byju of Annamalai University's Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology, N. Raveendran of the Madurai-based Iragukal Amritha Nature Trust, and citizen scientist A.J. Mathiyazhagan.

"During one of our routine shorebird monitoring studies in Ramanathapuram on November 24, 2022, we observed a large nest on a powerline pylon near the rainwater storage area of Pudumadam," Mr. Byju told *The Hindu*. The team scanned the adjacent pylons and found three nests about 100 metres from each other. These were on the paddy fields adjacent to the rainwater storage area.

Each nest, about 1.4 metres, was at a height of about 18 metres from the ground. The nests were large deep bowls constructed of thick sticks, twigs, and branches and lined with grass, seaweed, or green leaves.

The team observed an incubating adult on the nest of the first pylon on its next visit a month later, and also found a fourth nest on another pylon.

Careful monitoring
"White-bellied sea eagles have been reported to nest on power poles and transmission towers in Australia and Thailand by birdwatchers. In India, the bird's nesting was earlier reported on a telecommunication tower from Andhra Pradesh," Mr. Byju said.

Careful management and monitoring of such unnatural nesting sites are critical to the safety of both eagles and humans, the authors said.

Centre imposes 40% duty on onion exports, to offload stocks

The levy will remain in force till December 31; Consumer Affairs Secretary says the Centre has auctioned two truckloads in Azadpur and the NAFED auctioned three truckloads; NCP leader asks govt. to ensure remunerative prices for farmers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday imposed a 40% duty on the export of onions. The government will also offload stocks of onions in various wholesale markets to reduce the retail prices. The national average prices of the essential vegetable had increased by at least ₹5 from last year's.

On Saturday, the national average price was ₹30.72 a kg, with a maximum price of ₹63 a kg at Champhai in Manipur and a minimum of ₹10 at Neemuch and Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh.

"This notification shall come into force with immediate effect, and will remain in force up to and inclusive of the December 31, 2023," said a Gazette notification of the Revenue Department under the Union Finance Ministry.

Nationalist Congress Party leader Supriya Sule, MP, questioned the move and urged the Centre to ensure remunerative prices for onion farmers.

The national average price of onion was ₹30.72 a kg with a maximum price of ₹63/kg in Manipur. PTI

Increase availability
Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said the decision was taken in order to increase the availability of onions in the domestic market, especially in view of the coming festival season. "It was also being noticed that there was a sharp rise in exports in the recent past," he told *The Hindu*.

He added that the Centre auctioned two truckloads, each with 30 tonnes of onion, in Azadpur market here and the NAFED auctioned three truckloads. He said the Centre, at the rates of ₹23 a kg and ₹22.5 a kg, plans to offload at least five truckloads a day in the coming week.

Mr. Singh said the market has started cooling by the announcement for offloading by the Centre. "We expect the rates to go down further on Monday. Because of our intervention, private traders who were holding on to their stocks have also started offloading fearing crash in prices," he said.

Responding to a statement made by Ms. Sule in February that the Centre was trying to ban or regulate onion export harming the farmers, the Union Commerce Ministry said there was no such move.

"Government has not restricted or prohibited the export of onion. The extant export policy of onions is 'free'. Only the export of onion seed is 'restricted' and that too is permitted under Authorisation from Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)," the Centre had said. Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal had also questioned Ms. Sule's stand.

Ms. Sule said she was always speaking the truth. "I was talking what I was hearing from the ground. Farmers were telling me that there was a plan to ban or regulate the export. I requested the Commerce Ministry to drop this plan. I was told that there was no such plan. But now, they are regulating the export of onions. There has to be a balance between the interests of farmers and consumers. Farmers should get remunerative price. Consumers should get onions at a reasonable price. It is the duty of the government to ensure a win win situation," she added. According to the Union Commerce Ministry, in the ongoing financial year, about 9.75 lakh tonnes of onions have been exported. Bangladesh, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are the major importers of onions from India.

Ink thrown at Odisha CM's private secretary

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Ink was thrown at V.K. Pandian, Private Secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, during his tour of Puri district on Saturday. Puri District Collector Samarth Verma, who was accompanying Mr. Pandian on the campus of UGS College, Satyabadi, about 20 km from the district headquarters of Puri, also received ink stains.

The youth, who was accused of throwing ink, was whisked away from the spot by police personnel. He was identified as Bhaskar Sahu of Puri district. Mr. Pandian was interacting with members of self-help groups when the attack took place. He continued his public interaction programme with ink marks on his face.

Umakant Samantray, Biju Janata Dal MLA, said the attacker was a worker of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the attack was a manifestation of dire desperation on the part of the BJP, which was gradually losing hope for a good show in the next election.

J&K Police promise action in hate speech case

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir Police on Saturday said they would take action in an alleged hate speech case in Jammu, hours after former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti posted a video on X (formerly Twitter) showing anti-Muslim slogans were allegedly raised during a 'Tiranga Yatra' in Jammu.

"Action is being taken under law against hate speech. The sloganeers will be arrested," a police spokesperson said. The incident purportedly took place during an Independence Day rally in Jammu.

"While L-G administration was busy showing off the 'Tiranga Yatra' in Kashmir. another took place in Jammu where right-wing fanatics openly called for a Muslim genocide" Ms. Mufti said in the post.

U.P. orders no FIR against entrepreneurs, traders without preliminary probe

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday ordered that a preliminary investigation be conducted before registering a first information report (FIR) against traders and entrepreneurs in the State. The government aims to reduce the number of 'baseless cases' filed against business persons in the State.

"Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered on Saturday that a preliminary investigation should be conducted before filing a first information report (FIR) against traders and entrepreneurs. This move aims to reduce the number of baseless FIRs filed against businesspersons and traders in the State, which frequently result in harassment and undue pressure. Now, an FIR cannot be lodged directly by any person against traders and entrepreneurs," reads a government release.

> Government is committed to ensuring that no hindrance is caused to the ease of doing business in order to accelerate State's development projects
> **U.P. GOVERNMENT**

The government described it as a step to stop hindrances in accelerating the State's development.

The order, however, will not be applicable to any cases of cognisable offence.

"The government is committed to ensuring that no hindrance is caused to the ease of doing business to accelerate the State's development projects. Simultaneously, the government is determined to prevent any form of harassment against entrepreneurs, traders, owners of educational institutions, hospitals, construction companies, hotels, and their managerial-level employees," it added, claiming that due to the government's initiatives, investment of ₹36 lakh crore is proposed in Uttar Pradesh.

Police say plot to kill Bihar journalist was hatched in prison

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

The conspiracy to kill *Dainik Jagran* journalist Vimal Kumar Yadav, who was shot dead on Friday, was plotted in a prison.

The Araria police on Saturday said that Rupesh Yadav and Kranti Yadav, currently lodged in the Supaul and Araria prisons, respectively, plotted to kill the journalist, the only witness in the murder of his younger brother Gabbu Yadav.

Vimal Yadav had been continuously receiving threats to change his testimony.

Out of the eight persons named as accused in the case, four have been arrested.

The two main accused in the case – Madhav Yadav and Arjun Sharma – are absconding.

Araria Superintendent of Police (SP) Ashok Kumar Singh on Saturday said two convicts in different jails had conspired to kill Vimal Yadav through his friends.

"Rupesh Yadav and Kranti Yadav hatched the conspiracy to kill the journalist. They are in jail on the charges of the murder of Gabbu Yadav. We are in the process of taking them in remand for interrogation. Vimal's father has named eight accused and so far, the police have arrested four and two main accused who had opened fire are still absconding," Mr. Singh said.

At about 5.30 a.m. on Friday, four people knocked at the door of Vinay Yadav's house in Raniganj block and opened fire when he answered.

He was rushed to the Raniganj referral hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

With no breakthrough yet, India, China continue dialogue on LAC impasse

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Three weeks ahead of the G-20 Summit in New Delhi, efforts are on for a breakthrough on the ground in the stalemate at the Depsang plains and Demchok in eastern Ladakh as part of overall efforts to end the 2020 stand-off between India and China.

Towards this, two Major General-level talks were held on Friday as a follow up to the 19th round of Corps Commander-level talks held earlier this week, officials confirmed.

The outcome of the two separate Major General-level talks are still awaited.

The Corps Commanders-level talks went on for two days this time, an official source said, adding that there were expectations of some breakthrough and forward movement on the ground.

The respective Major Generals in the area held talks with their Chinese counterparts, another source stated. India and China have Border Personnel Meeting (BPM) points at Chushul and Daulat Beg Oldie in eastern Ladakh.

Though the details of the two separate meetings are still awaited, the talks happened following Corp Commanders-level talks. AP

While expectations are that Chinese President Xi Jinping will travel to India for the G-20 Summit on September 9 and 10, he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are scheduled to attend the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa from August 22 to 24, though there is no indication as of now of any possible meeting between them on the sidelines.

At the Depsang plains, Chinese troops have been blocking Indian patrols for some time from going beyond the Y-junction by deliberately starting a face-off. The Indian Army has not been able to access Patrolling Points (PP) 10, 11, 11A, 12 and 13 located on the Limit of Patrolling which lies before the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

India last accessed the PPs in Depsang in January/February 2020, as reported by *The Hindu* earlier.

As per agreed protocols, both side undertake banner drills when patrol parties come face to face as a way to prevent escalation. This involves both sides waving banners at each other and asserting their claim when patrols come face to face and then return.

China has been using the border protocols for preventing face-offs to block Indian patrols and as agreed during the earlier phases of disengagement, the two sides have to work out new patrolling norms once disengagement and de-escalation is done, another source noted. The Sub-Sector North (SSN), which consists Depsang plains and DBO, is very crucial and is currently accessible only by the 255-km-long Darbuk-Shyok-DBO (DSDBO) road. Work is on for an alternate access through Saser La.

Minister unveils lotus variety 'Namoh 108', describes it as 'grand gift' to Modi

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh unveiled a lotus variety, 'Namoh 108', at a function in the CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, and described it as a "grand gift to the relentless zeal and innate beauty of Narendra Modi, coming as it does in the 10th year of his tenure as the Prime Minister".

The lotus has 108 petals and was discovered several years ago in Manipur and kept at the institute as part of its collection of flowers and plants, on which the institute conducts research. However, it was not until four years ago that one of the scientists discovered that it had 108 petals – a number that Ajit Kumar Shasany, Director, CSIR-NBRI, told *The Hindu* was of religious significance to Hinduism.

Classic flower: Union Minister Jitendra Singh unveiling a variety of lotus in Lucknow on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Considering the religious importance of the 'lotus flower' and 'the digit 108', this combination gives an important identity to this variety," Mr. Singh said on Saturday.

Other than the possession of 108 petals, the flower on initial inspection was ordinary compared with several other kinds of lotus available in India. In fact, its "fibre quality" was less and it bloomed only in one season, Mr. Shasany said.

"Until the apple fell on Newton, no one understood its significance to gravity. However, once this connection (of 108) was made, then we undertook a more detailed study of its characteristics and later on sequenced the genome of the flower. This is the only lotus variety in India to have had its genome sequenced," Mr. Shasany told *The Hindu*.

It was only after the number of petals was discovered that the NBRI cloned and worked on improving its germplasm and modifying its characteristics in a way that it could be cultivated relatively easily outside Manipur.

"We will be registering as the official lotus variety out of India. After all, this is our national flower," said Mr. Shasany. "We have plans on facilitating an entire industrial and entrepreneurial ecosystem around this."

At the launch on Saturday, Minister Singh made public apparel made from the 108 fibre as well as perfume, named 'Frotus'.

The name of the variety was given by an internal committee of the NBRI. "Somebody (in the meeting) said Om Namaha Vasudeva...we took the 'Namoh' from that," Mr. Shasany told *The Hindu*. *Namoh* in Sanskrit translates to 'salutations.'

CSIR-NBRI would be initiating a 'Lotus Mission' as part of a larger ongoing horticultural mission to have more of the 108 Namo flowers grow in other parts of India.

Doles, free power among AAP's poll promises for Chhattisgarh

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Aam Aadmi Party national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced 10 poll guarantees for the upcoming Chhattisgarh Assembly election.

Mr. Kejriwal revealed nine of them at a rally in Raipur, including financial assistance of ₹1,000 for some women; monthly unemployment allowance of ₹3,000; free electricity of up to 300 units for 24 hours and waiver of pending electricity bills; and ₹1 crore to families of security personnel who die on duty. He said the 10th guarantee on "tribals and farmers" – two categories that comprise a bulk of the electorate – would be revealed on his next visit.

Asserting that education and health services would be improved on the lines of Delhi and Punjab, two States ruled by the his party, Mr. Kejriwal also took a veiled dig at the government-led by his party's INDIA (Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance) bloc partner, the Congress. He alleged that the condition of schools in the State was terrible.

Notably, the State government also publicises the newly developed Swami Atmanand Schools as one of its key achievements.

While the AAP, by announcing the guarantees before the two main parties [the Congress and the BJP], is trying to dent the bipolar history of Chhattisgarh politics, its own electoral record has been modest. Mr. Kejriwal's party contested 85 of the 90 seats in the 2018 Assembly polls but drew a blank.

Modi govt. using G-20 meet to run poll campaign: Cong.

Party general secretary Jairam Ramesh says the PM is doing 'event management' for electoral gains and is trying to divert the attention of the people from real issues affecting the nation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi government is running an "election campaign" using the upcoming G-20 summit in India and is trying to divert people's attention from real issues, the Congress alleged on Saturday.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh wrote on the social media platform X that the G-20 was formed in 1999, with 19 countries and the European Union as members.

"Since its formation, the G-20 summit has been held in 17 countries in turns. Now it is India's turn. But the kind of election campaign that is being run here and efforts being made to create such an atmosphere around it, has not happened in any other country," Mr. Ramesh said.

"In fact, this is being done to divert the attention of the people from the important issues," he added. The Congress leader said India had successfully

> The nation is often reminded by G2 (Modi & Shah) of what they call Gujarat model. But what the nation is not told has been revealed in a recent NITI Aayog report
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress leader

organised the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement of more than 100 countries in 1983 and after that a summit of Commonwealth countries in New Delhi the same year. But the government of the day did not use those opportunities for electoral gains, he said.

Advani's comment

"Then I remember that statement of L.K. Advani. On April 5, 2014, he described Narendra Modi as a great event manager. To divert the attention of the public, the Prime Minister is only doing event management," Mr. Ramesh alleged.

On September 9 and 10, India will host the G-20 Leaders' Summit at the newly built Bharat Mandapam International Exhibition-Convention Centre as the current president of the grouping.

Mr. Ramesh's post came on a day when the Delhi Police prevented several people from entering a seminar-cum-workshop, We20, on alternative policies. The programme was held at the Harkishan Singh Surjeet Bhavan of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

Speaking about the incident, Mr. Ramesh said on X, "It is extraordinary that Delhi Police is stopping people from attending the We20 meeting organised by activists representing We, The People, inside a building that belongs to the CPM. The meeting is perfectly peaceful. There are no street protests. I managed to enter at 10:30 am before Delhi Police started its operations but had difficulty exiting now. This is new India Democracy."

In another post, he targeted the Prime Minister's home State of Gujarat over a NITI Aayog report.

"The nation is often reminded by G2 (Modi & Shah) especially of what they call Gujarat model. But what the nation is not told has been revealed in a recent Niti Aayog report: over 38% of population is under-nourished. Nearly half of rural Gujarat is deprived of nutrition, ranks 4th worst in India in terms of stunted children, ranks 2nd worst in India in wasted and underweight children and more than a third of the rural population is deprived of housing," Mr. Ramesh said.

Delhi Police restrict entry to seminar on G-20 held by civil society groups

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Police say organisers did not take any permission for event; CPI(M) terms it suppression of voices

The Delhi Police on Saturday restricted entry to the H.K.S. Surjeet Bhavan in central Delhi on the second day of a seminar being organised by civil society groups to analyse the implications and outcome of the upcoming G-20 Summit. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) owns Surjeet Bhavan.

The police said the organisers of the seminar – We20 People's Summit on G-20 – had not taken permission for holding the event. Reacting sharply, the CPI(M) called the police action an attempt to "suppress dissenting opinions being voiced".

The event began at 10.30 a.m., and a statement issued by the organisers said the Delhi Police "barricaded the gates to Surjeet Bhavan not letting anyone in around 11 a.m."

The police, they said, demanded that the seminar be "shut down". However, the seminar continued inside the building, amid heavy police presence outside.

When the police reached the venue, at least two MPs – Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh and JD(U) leader Anil Hegde – were attending workshops inside. There were three simultaneous sessions going on with different topics, including "G-20 and India's Presidency: In whose interest?".

Nikhil Dey, of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, told *The Hindu* that he was stopped by the police from entering the building.

"I told them that I am one of the speakers, but the officer posted said he cannot make any exception," Mr. Dey said.

Mr. Dey said he had to wait for more than an hour and could enter the building only when the gates were opened to let Mr. Ramesh out. By that time, there was a crowd of 30 to 40 persons at the gates. The gates were opened for Mr. Ramesh only after a heated argument between the police and the organisers.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Sanjay Sain told *The Hindu* that the police received "several calls" that "tents are being erected and people are gathering. The police team was sent after we verified the information". Asked if permission is required for events organised inside private buildings, Mr. Sain said, "They had erected tents outside the building. And there was considerable gathering of people, in an area where Section 144 is imposed."

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury questioned the Delhi Police's reasoning. "The police sought to stop the meeting stating that it had not got police permission. No police permission was ever required for such meetings or seminars in private buildings," he said.

Kharge cites CAG report to slam 'lies' about UDAN scheme

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Citing a Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) report that said that the Centre's flagship UDAN scheme did not not work on 93% of the routes, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said that the common people only got "lies and *jumlas* [empty rhetoric]" from the Narendra Modi government.

The UDAN scheme – an acronym for *Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik* (Common man takes flight) – was launched in October 2016 to provide air connectivity to Tier-2 and -3 cities and towns at an affordable cost. In a post on social media platform X, Mr. Kharge said that the Modi government's promise of enabling the common people to travel by air had not been fulfilled "just like all their promises".

"We are not saying this, the CAG Report is saying this! The scheme (UDAN) did not work on 93% of the routes. Even independent audit of airlines was not done. The much publicised helicopter services also remained stalled. Didn't get 'UDAN' (flight), just talk of lies and *jumlas*! India will not forgive such an incompetent government now!" the Congress president said.

Mallikarjun Kharge

In the past couple of days, the Congress has stepped up its attack on the Modi government over CAG reports that have pointed out the misuse of funds and cost escalation of public infrastructure projects.

Expressway project

Commenting on the cost escalation of the Dwarka Expressway, former Information and Broadcasting Minister Manish Tewari had also questioned the media on its "silence" about the reports.

"The same media that used to have paroxysms of apoplectic fits with breathless anchors on the verge of bursting a vein when former C&G Vinod Rai would release his dubious reports based upon fictional presumptive losses, today chooses to bury its collective head in the sands of ignominy when the C&G says that a road that should have been built at ₹18 crore a kilometre was built at ₹250 crore a kilometre. Where is anger, outrage, consternation, pulpit thumping fury? Is the silence wilful, fear or inducement driven?" Mr. Tewari asked on social media.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate too had questioned the mainstream media for not seeking answers from the Modi government on issues of corruption unlike during "the UPA era where every CAG report had become the subject matter of daily prime time TV debates".

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Further details relating to application procedure, eligibility criteria, interview dates, etc., may be obtained from the website **http://ncscm.res.in/career/**
Director, NCSCM

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 114-116/2023-24/PHC/KNR. **Jal Jeevan Mission -** Kannur, Kasaragod District - WSS to Alakkode - Eruvassy, Kinanoor Karinthalam, Karadukka, Kumbadaje And Delampadi - Construction of Treatment Plant, OHSR, In take Well cum Pump House, Service Reservoir, Substation Building, Retaining Wall,Transmission main, Pumping Main, Supply Transformer, Pump sets, Distribution Pipe Line, providing FHTCs and Road reformation work.
EMD : Rs. 200000-500000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 13010-19518, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 04-09-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 04972705902
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-1070-2023-24 PH Circle, Kannur

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : E-Tender 127/2023-24/SE/PHC/CHN. REBUILD-RKI - Providing underground sewerage networks and allied works for the newly constructed 5MLD STP at Elamkulam-Providing underground sewerage networks and allied works for the newly constructed 5MLD STP at Elamkulam-Sewerage Work
EMD : Rs. ₹ 5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19517.2/-, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 07-09-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 0484-2360645
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-1063-2023-24 PH Circle, Kochi

RAJASTHAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
सेक्टर-18, कुशल मार्ग, प्रताप नगर, जयपुर - 302033 (राज.), दूरभाष : 0141-2795115, 0141-2795508, 2795536,
फैक्स : 0141-279803 ई-मेल : convenercperuhsgmail.com
No. :- F. 14(6) RUHS/CPC/2023-24/23332 **Dated :- 17/08/2023**
Notice Inviting e-Bids
Single Stage Two envelope Online bids (e-bids) are invited upto 02.00 pm of 08/09/2023 (Dept. of Pediatrics) and up to 02.00 PM of 11/09/2023 (Dept. of Ophthalmology & General Surgery) for supply and installation of various Equipment for Dept. of Pediatrics, Dept. of Ophthalmology and Dept. of General Surgery at RUHS Hospital of Medical Sciences, Jaipur. Details may be seen in the Bidding Documents at the Website **www.ruhsraj.org** or **sppp.raj.nic.in** or **eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.**
UBN No. : RUH2324GLOB00013-20, 23, 25-28
UBN No. : RUH2324GSOB00021-22, 24
Convener
Raj.Samwad/C/23/7803 Central Procurement Cell, RUHS, Jaipur

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Kerala State Rural Road Development Agency (KSRRDA), Thiruvananthapuram
Notice inviting tenders
Notice No.02/3414/2023-24/CE-KSRRDA **Dated: 14/08/2023**
Download Start Date : 21/08/2023: 9.00 AM
Download End Date : 04/09/2023: 5.00 PM
Last date of Physical Document submission : 07/09/2023: 5.00 PM
Date of Tender Opening On-line : 08/09/2023: 11.00 AM
Chief Engineer, KSRRDA invites e-tenders on behalf of the Governor of Kerala, On-line bids for 61 road works under PMGSY work from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Public Works Department of States / Central Public Works Department / Railways / Local Self Government Department. The bid forms and other Details can be obtained from the website **www.pmgsytendersker.gov.in** & other details if any will be notified in the website **www.ksrrda.kerala.gov.in**
Sd/- Chief Engineer,
RO/01966/D3/2023/I&PRD Kerala State Rural Roads Development Agency

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, RAIPUR
(An Autonomous Institute Under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI)
No.RC/NF-C/2023/11 **DATE: 08.07.2023**
JUNIOR CLINICAL PERFUSIONIST RECRUITMENT
AIIMS, Raipur invites applications in the prescribed format from the Indian nationals for the one post of **Junior Clinical Perfusionist on Contractual Basis** for a period of 11 months, Remuneration –Rs. 40,000/- per month (consolidated) in the Dept. of CTVS at AIIMS Raipur. The detailed essential qualification, experience, terms & conditions related to this recruitment are available on **www.aiimsraipur.edu.in**. All the notification, last date of application amendments, corrigendum, updates etc. related to this advertisement, if any, will be published only on the website.
- Deputy Director (Admin.)

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.
e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)
TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (a) 11KV/433-250V, 3-Ph 63 KVA Aluminium Wound Distribution Transformers with BIS Energy Efficiency Level-2 (Star-2), (b) Desktop Computers, (c) 3Cx70+16+50 Sq.mm LT AB XLPE Cable, (d) 33 KV, 1Cx400 Sq.mm TR XLPE UG Cable, (e) LT Distribution Boxes (SMC), (f) 24V DC Numerical Relays, (g) 11KV 24V DC Feeder VCBs with CRPs & CTs of Ratio 400-200-100/1-1A and (h) LT Pin Insulators on e-tender platform.
For further details of each item above, pleae visit **www.tssouthernpower.com** **www.tender.telangana.gov.in** and **www.auction.telangana.gov.in**
Phone: 040-23431360, 1033, 1035
DIPR R.O. No. : 526-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24, Date: 19-08-2023 Sd/- CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&MM)

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Registered & Corporate Office : Bidyut Unnayan Bhaban
Plot No.: 3/C, LA - Block, Sector- III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106
Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref No.: WBPDCL / Tend-Adv/23-24/CORP/CC-567 Dated: 17.08.2023
NIT No.: WBPDCL/CORP/NIT/E1753/23-24 Dated : 18.08.2023
Supply & delivery of non-torrefied Biomass Pallets at Thermal Power Plants of the WBPDCL.
NIT Document Download Start Date / End Date : 18.08.2023 at 11:00 AM./ 27.09.2023 at 12.00 PM. **Contact Person:** Ipsita Chaudhuri, Manager (PS), M&C, Corporate. **Contact No.:** 9830616477. **E-mail:** ichaudhuri@wbpdcl.co.in
For details please visit: **https:// wbtenders.gov.in**
ICA- T16958(3)/2023

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
No.: BMTC/CO/COSP/05/2023-24 Date: 18.08.2023
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender is invited through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for the following items:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Last date for bid submission in Karnataka public procurement portal
		Short-Term Tender	
1	BMTC/2023-24/ IND0015	Procurement of Wall Clocks	28.08.2023 at 14.30 Hrs.
2	BMTC/2023-24/ SE0078	Operating Canteen at BMTC Training Center, Vaddarahalli	28.08.2023 at 14.30 Hrs.
		Regular Tender	
3	BMTC/2023-24/ IND0016	Procurement of Automotive Glasses	08.09.2023 at 14.30 Hrs.
4	BMTC/2023-24/ SE0079	Engaging an agency to run Creche (Day Care Centre) for Working Mothers' children at BMTC Central Office, Shanthinagar,	08.09.2023 at 14.30 Hrs.

*For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES AND PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways,Government of India)
(Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008)
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SAGARMALA Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav G20
Advt. No. IMU-HQ/R/T/2023/02 Date: 20.08.2023
RECRUITMENT FOR FACULTY POSITIONS (ON DIRECT RECRUITMENT BASIS)
Applications are invited from the prospective and eligible candidates for the following posts

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Discipline	No of the Post	Category	Horizontal Reservation	Academic Pay Level
1	Professor	Marine Engineering	5	SC – 1 OBC-NCL–1 UR – 3	Blindness & Low Vision	Pay Matrix Level–14 (144200-2,18,200)
		Logistics & Supply Chain Management/ Port & Shipping Management	1	UR–1		
		Economics/Finance and Accounting	1	OBC-NCL–1		

*Out of 7 posts, one post is reserved for Blindness and Low Vision.
The vacancies stated above are tentative and are subject to change. IMU reserves the right not to fill up any of the posts advertised (or) cancel the recruitment at any stage.
For further details regarding eligibility criteria: Age, Educational Qualifications, Experience, etc., please visit www.imu.edu.in

DESIRED AREA OF EXPERTISE
- Development of Micro Credit Courses.
- Research development and guidance
- Academia-industry interaction and R&D Entrepreneurship

REMUNERATION & BENEFITS
- Professor- INR 31 Lakhs per year
- Cumulative Professional Development Allowance- INR 1 lakh per year

Important dates:
Opening date for submission of online application: 20.08.2023
Closing date for submission of online application: 19.09.2023
REGISTRAR

A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Rahul Gandhi rides motorcycle from Leh to Pangong Lake

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday rode a motorcycle from Leh to Pangong Lake in Ladakh on the eve of the birth anniversary of his father Rajiv Gandhi, a party spokesman said. The former Congress president is currently on a tour of Ladakh – his first since the region was made a Union Territory after being carved out of J&K in August 2019. The erstwhile State of J&K was also turned into a Union Territory and its special status under Article 370 of the Constitution was revoked. After covering more than 130 km, Mr. Gandhi will stay overnight at Pangong Lake where a celebration will be organised in connection with the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, he said. PTI

Submarine *INS Vagir* to reach Fremantle on August 20

In the maiden deployment of an Indian Navy submarine to Australia, *INS Vagir,* a Scorpene-class submarine, on an extended-range deployment since June, will reach the city of Fremantle on August 20. Concurrently, on the east coast of Australia, Indian naval ships and aircraft are taking part in the ongoing Exercise Malabar 23 also involving Australia, Japan and the U.S. and will later participate in AUSINDEX 23 from August 22 to 24. Australia has also invited India for the Sea Power conference that it is hosting from November 7 to 9 which New Delhi is likely to attend.

Adityanath inspects Ram Temple progress in Ayodhya

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday inspected the progress on the construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya and met the officials of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. Mr. Adityanath, offered floral tributes at the Samadhi of Ramchandra Paramhans Das. "The CM gathered details about the progress on the construction of Ram temple from Champat Rai, general secretary of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust," said the government. Mr. Adityanath held discussions with officials over the ongoing development project in the city. He spoke with the labourers working at the temple construction site.

Ratan Tata conferred with 'Udyog Ratna' award

Eminent industrialist Ratan Tata was on Saturday conferred with the first ever 'Udyog Ratna' award instituted by the Maharashtra government. The award was presented to the 85-year-old chairman emeritus of Tata Sons by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Cheif Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar at the industrialist's home in Colaba in south Mumbai. Mr. Shinde said honouring Mr. Tata had enhanced the prestige of the award. "The contribution of the Tata group in all sectors, from salt to vehicles to airlines, is immense. Tata means trust and people have immense faith in the Tata Group. I thank him for accepting this award," he said.

SUDOKU

5		7	6	1				
8	6							9
	2				3			7
							8	6
		9	3		8	1		
2	5							
7			1				9	
1							4	3
				2	4	7		1

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS5894 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	2	1	3	6	9	4	5	7
7	9	3	8	5	4	2	6	1
6	5	4	7	1	2	9	3	8
5	8	9	4	2	6	1	7	3
3	1	6	9	8	7	5	2	4
2	4	7	5	3	1	6	8	9
9	3	2	6	4	8	7	1	5
4	6	5	1	7	3	8	9	2
1	7	8	2	9	5	3	4	6

G-20 countries to strengthen global health architecture

Health Ministry spearheads the unanimously adopted 25-point document at Gandhinagar meeting agreed by all G-20 delegations, except for a contentious paragraph on the war in Ukraine

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
GANDHINAGAR

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya addresses the media after the G-20 Health Ministers' Meeting in Gandhinagar. ANI

The G-20 Health Ministers' meeting saw the unanimous adoption of the outcome document, spearheaded by the Indian Health Ministry and agreed upon by all G-20 delegations, except for a contentious paragraph on the Ukraine war in the 25-point document.

The document released on Saturday reaffirmed the commitment of G-20 countries to strengthening the global health architecture.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that India's G-20 Presidency was carrying forward the discussions on the need for adaptable, affordable, sustainable, inclusive, and equitable access to medical countermeasures, which were discussed during the Indonesian and Italian G-20 Presidencies also. Countries also recognised the need for improving the understanding of long COVID, its consequences on individual, social and economic levels, as well as on post-COVID-related health services, and noted the importance of surveillance and research in long COVID.

Meanwhile, as part of the outcome document, G-20 countries noted that they continued to be committed to strengthening dialogue through the G-20 Joint Finance-Health Task Force, and welcomed the conclusion of the First Call for Proposals of the Pandemic Fund.

Pandemic preparedness

Member countries looked forward to a successful outcome of the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Body for a legally binding World Health Organization (WHO) international instrument on pandemic preparedness, prevention and response by May 2024, and the Working Group on Amendments to International Health Regulations, recognising member states' sovereignty and responsibility for health systems.

Countries further reaffirmed the importance of strengthening national health systems by putting people at the centre of preparedness and equipping them to respond effectively.

They also recognised the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective with a view to achieving gender equality in health systems.

The nations committed to prioritising climate-resilient health systems' development; building sustainable and low-carbon/low greenhouse gas emission health systems and healthcare supply chains that deliver high-quality healthcare; mobilise resources for resilient, low-carbon sustainable health systems; and facilitating collaboration.

On song

Field day: The Army band performs during the Kashmir Women Cricket League organised by the Army in Srinagar on Saturday. NISSAR AHMAD

WHO-managed grid to promote equitable access to digital health

The Hindu Bureau
GANDHINAGAR

GIDH will strengthen the mutual accountability to enhance the impact of future investments

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday launched the Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH), a network managed by the World Health Organization, in the presence of Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the world body.

The GIDH is one of the key deliverables of India's G-20 Presidency. It will consolidate the evidence and "amplify recent and past gains in global digital health" while strengthening mutual accountability to enhance the impact of future investments, the Health Ministry said.

Equitable access

The GIDH will be a WHO-managed network that will promote equitable access to digital health by addressing challenges such as duplication of efforts and "products-focused" digital health transformation. It will ultimately aim to align efforts to support the Global Strategy on Digital Health, 2020-2025, support quality-assured technical assistance to develop and strengthen standards-based and interoperable systems aligned to global best practices, norms, and standards, and facilitate the deliberate use of quality-assured digital transformation tools that enable governments to manage their digital health transformation journey, the Ministry said. In his keynote address at the G-20 Health Ministers' Meeting, the Health Minister said that India's G-20 presidency has leveraged its experience on developing a national digital health architecture through the convergence of digital health interventions aimed at strengthening health systems through interoperability by design.

Health Secretary Sudhansh Pant highlighted India's effort for establishing a digital health ecosystem through the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. He stated that "with a view to avoid reinvention of wheel multiple times", we are keen on sharing our learnings of the same with the world. This approach of sharing is linked to India's philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (whole world is one family).

'Integrative step'

Dr. Ghebreyesus emphasised that "the GIDH is an integrative step that fosters equity in healthcare by converging efforts and best practices. It will amplify our efforts with the incorporation of tools such as AI while giving due importance to ethics, policy, and governance".

Mirwaiz sends legal notice to J&K govt.

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Hurriyat chairman and the Kashmir Valley's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Saturday sent a legal notice to the Jammu & Kashmir government over his continuous detention at his residence in Srinagar. The notice against the "illegal detention" is addressed to the J&K Chief Secretary.

Judges rush to SC to hear rape survivor seeking abortion

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Gujarat HC had dismissed the woman's plea for termination of her pregnancy

The Supreme Court shifted to high gear on Saturday, constituting a Special Bench to hear a 25-year-old rape survivor who is fighting time to get an abortion.

The top court's registry kicked into action soon after she filed her appeal. Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud constituted a Special Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan, who rushed to the court for the special hearing at 10.30 a.m.

The Bench found that the Gujarat High Court had dismissed the woman's plea for termination of her pregnancy, which is over 26 weeks, despite a favourable medical report on August 11. Justice Nagarathna conveyed her dismay on finding that the High Court had inexplicably posted the case after nearly two weeks before rejecting her request.

The woman's counsel said she had moved the High Court on August 7 and the court took up the case the next day. It had directed a medical examination. The medical report was submitted within the next 48 hours.

However, on August 11, the High Court posted the case to August 23. The Bench was also informed that the High Court was yet to upload the dismissal order.

The Bench ordered a fresh medical examination of the woman later in the day. It directed that the report to be submitted in court by Sunday.

The Supreme Court posted the case for Monday.

The Bench further directed the Secretary-General of the Supreme Court to ascertain from the Gujarat High Court Registry if the order has been uploaded. Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021, the upper gestational limit for termination of pregnancy is 24 weeks for special categories of women, including survivors of rape, victims of incest and other vulnerable women.

Blood trail from 1857 war to a flight down south

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Buried history: Coins found along with skeletons of soldiers from the well beneath a gurdwara in Ajnala. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gyaneshwer Chaubey was surprised when he received a text message in June from a man in Canada requesting a conversation about the Ajnala massacre. Mr. Chaubey, who works in the Department of Zoology in Banaras Hindu University, was not expecting to have a chat about an event in August 1857, with a person from outside academics.

But Sameer Pandey had called him to say that one or more of the soldiers from the 26th Native Bengal Infantry Regiment who had been killed *en masse* in India's First War of Independence, was an ancestor.

Professor Chaubey is in the process of analysing the remains of the 282 men whose bones had been found in February 2014 in an old well in Ajnala, near Amritsar, Punjab. Certain markers had enabled scientists to conclude that the men were from the Gangetic plains. "When we spoke, what really got me interested was the revelation that after the British killed many of the soldiers, they harassed the families, forcing these people to flee to present-day Tamil Nadu," said Mr. Chaubey, who is now in the process of locating the descendants.

In 2014, Surinder Kochar, an amateur historian, found a well beneath a gurdwara in Ajnala, where the skeletons of 282 soldiers were found along with bullets, epaulettes, and coins of the East India Company.

They had been shot dead during the revolt. The only known soldier killed in Ajnala was named Prakash Pandey.

Mr. Sameer Pandey, an engineer who migrated to Toronto, Canada, in 2003, said, "My ancestors and other people fled from Dumtahar, Rae Bareli, after 1857, to a village called Santhur in Krishnagiri in present-day Tamil Nadu and settled there. I request the U.P. and Tamil Nadu governments to share some information of the land and people records of the village in Krishnagiri and Dumtahar village in Rae Bareli, so migration data can be matched." He hopes DNA samples from the bones collected could be a source of proof.

"We have mitochondrial DNA data of 50 martyrs. The next plan is to generate nuclear data, which is more informative than mitochondrial DNA. Also, this is a case of six generations and a single soldier may have multiple descendants, so it is easier to find a few with mass DNA testing, but it is expensive and time consuming," said Mr. Chaubey, adding that though only 50 samples to match with out of 282, they were hopeful.

Mr. Chaubey says he has written to the authorities in Tamil Nadu and the Union government to trace descendants of those who migrated in 1857, "but I failed to get any response".

Over 29% of Kashmir's population attended I-Day

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The J&K administration on Saturday said 36.85 lakh local people, around 29% of the Union Territory's population, participated in the Independence Day functions and termed it "a historic milestone".

A government spokesman said a record number of 36,85,106 persons, out of the total population of 1.25 crore as per the 2011 Census, participated in the celebrations held across the districts, "displaying patriotic fervor".

In Kashmir, according to official figures, Baramulla reported the highest level of participation of about 5,05,909 persons, out of 10 lakh population, in 3,353 events. It was followed by Anantnag with 2,45,618 people attending 2,676 events.

"Kupwara organised the highest number of 4,993 events providing opportunity to 2,34,146 persons and Pulwama organized 1,140 events in which 1,81,195 persons in the district participated," the government spokesman said.

A total of 42,879 events were conducted right from panchayats, educational institutions, *patwar khanas*, municipalities, tehsils and block offices.

MOSCOW

Russia's Luna-25 spacecraft suffers technical glitch, says space agency

REUTERS

An "abnormal situation" occurred at Russia's Luna-25 spacecraft on Saturday as it was preparing to transfer to its pre-landing orbit, Russia's national space agency Roskosmos said. The Russian spacecraft is scheduled to land on the south pole of the moon on Monday, part of a big power race to explore the moon. REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO

Musk, the owner of X, says he will scrap 'block' feature on platform

REUTERS

Elon Musk said his social media company X would scrap a feature that allows users to block posts from accounts. "Block is going to be deleted as a 'feature', except for DMs," Mr. Musk posted, indicating the option would still be available for "direct messages" between users of the social media platform, formerly known as Twitter. AFP

WEST BANK

Two Israeli civilians killed in shooting in occupied West Bank

AFP

Two Israeli civilians were killed in a suspected shooting in the occupied West Bank on Saturday, the Army said. Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that the Army had closed key entrances to the city of Nablus, and that soldiers were forcing businesses to close as they searched for the suspected attackers. AFP

QUITO

In run-up to polls, Ecuador mayor survives assassination attempt

REUTERS

The mayor of an Ecuadorian city said he was the victim of an attempted assassination, a day before the country goes to the polls in general elections. Francisco Tamariz said he escaped unharmed from the Friday evening attack, in which gunmen fired 30 shots at his vehicle. A top presidential candidate was murdered earlier. AFP

With muscle-flexing, China stirs tensions with neighbours

From the South China Sea to the LAC, China is forcefully pushing its territorial claims with neighbours with the aim of dissuading their warming ties with the U.S., a move experts say could backfire

NEWS ANALYSIS

Ananth Krishnan

From the South China Sea to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India, China has been more forcefully pushing its territorial claims with neighbours with the aim of dissuading their warming ties with the U.S., a risky strategy that experts said could end up backfiring.

While the latest 19th round talks between China and India, held on August 13 and 14 at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point, ended with a joint release from both sides unlike in the previous round and an agreement "to resolve the remaining issues in an expeditious manner", the negotiations have been anything but expeditious, Indian officials say, because of a broader hardening Chinese stand in enforcing Beijing's claims along the LAC. Dialling down tensions, officials and experts add, may likely only be tactical moves to create the right atmosphere for a high-level leaders' meeting, even as Beijing continues beefing up its posture along the border.

This dynamic has in recent days also been mirrored in another theatre – in the contested South China Sea, where one among China's fleet of increasingly large and sophisticated coast guard ships deployed water cannons to stop a Philippines vessel to deliver supplies to an already present garrison on the contested Second Thomas Shoal.

Warming ties with U.S.

In Manila, the moves have widely been seen as being aimed at its warming ties with Washington. "China has been upset with the Philippines, more so after the Marcos government renewed security cooperation with the U.S., which now has access to more local military bases," the *Manila Times* said in an editorial on the incident.

Similarly, Indian officials say as the China-U.S. rivalry has heightened, Beijing has increasingly situated its relations with India only in the context of its ties with Washington, an approach they believe has been a prime driver in worsening India-China relations.

Unfair terms: In the recent talks over the LAC, Beijing has raised what Indian military officials say unreasonable demands. PTI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has in several interviews and public remarks suggested Beijing was viewing ties with India through the prism of a third-party.

Since Corps Commander-level talks started in 2020, both have disengaged from five friction points in Galwan Valley, north and south of Pangong Lake, and Patrolling Points 15 and 17A. However, the talks have dramatically slowed down in the past 12 months, when only three rounds of talks have been held and Beijing has made what Indian military officials see as "unreasonable and unacceptable" demands requiring India to give up patrolling rights in the remaining two friction areas in Depsang and Demchok.

Former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, who recently visited Beijing for a high-level security form at Tsinghua University, told *The Hindu* in an interview that "as the level of concern or perception from threats from the U.S. increase, they appear to look at anything that happens between India and the U.S. as being directed at them. They are convinced that America has now decided to put a containment ring around them and that India is becoming a willing partner in that."

If some observers have been puzzled by why Beijing appears to be actively driving its neighbours into closer ties with the U.S. with its actions, Mr. Saran explained that there appeared be "two views" about this approach within the strategic community in Beijing. "One view is that putting pressure on India will dissuade them from moving closer to the U.S.," he said. "There is a train of thought that says that, 'if we do something on the border, then don't think anyone will help you and don't provoke us, there will be a price to pay.'"

"The other suggests that China should look at this more closely because India has still followed more or less an independent foreign policy, and has been displaying that with respect to the war in Ukraine, and that the more you use coercive measures against India, the greater will be a risk of India getting closer to the Americans. Both trends of thinking," he added, "are there in Beijing."

Russian missile attack kills 7 in Ukrainian city as Zelenskyy visits NATO candidate Sweden

Associated Press
CHERNIHIV

A missile attack in the centre of a northern Ukrainian city killed seven persons and wounded scores of others on Saturday, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy travelled to Sweden, his first visit to the country since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year.

The dead in the daytime strike on the northern city of Chernihiv included a 6-year-old girl, while 12 children were among the 117 wounded, acting mayor Oleksandr Lomako said.

Mr. Zelenskyy condemned the attack, which he said hit buildings including a theatre and a university.

"This is what a neighborhood with a terrorist state is, this is what we unite the whole world against. A Russian missile hit right in the center of the city, in our Chernihiv," he wrote on Telegram. "A square, the polytechnic university, a theater. An ordinary Saturday, which Russia turned into a day of pain and loss."

In Sweden, Mr. Zelenskyy met officials at Harpsund, the Prime Minister's official summertime residence. He will also meet Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia.

Skeletal structure: The music and drama theatre that was damaged in the Russian attack in Chernihiv on Saturday. AP

At a joint news conference, Mr. Zelenskyy and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson announced that the two countries agreed to strengthen cooperation on the production, training and servicing of the Swedish CV-90 infantry fighting vehicles.

Agreement on arms

As part of the agreement, Mr. Zelenskyy said, Swedish CV-90 vehicles will begin production in Ukraine. He also stressed the importance of supplying Ukraine with modern aircraft.

"We do not have superiority in the air, and we do not have modern aircraft. In reality, the Swedish Gripen is the pride of your country, and I believe that the Prime Minister could share this pride with Ukraine," Mr. Zelenskyy said, adding that "appropriate actions" would be taken in the following weeks to "open up the possibility of obtaining the appropriate aircraft."

Mr. Kristersson expressed his condolences to Mr. Zelenskyy for the attack in Chernihiv. He called the Russian missile strike an "act of brutality" which "only reinforces the need for us to stand with you in all your struggles."

In Russia, President Vladimir Putin visited top military officials in the city of Rostov-on-Don near the Ukrainian border.

Mosques probed over protest call in blasphemy riots in Pakistan

Agence France-Presse
LAHORE

A Muslim cleric is among a dozen people being investigated for using mosque loudspeakers to order protests against alleged blasphemy by Christians which erupted into mob violence in Pakistan earlier this week, a police official said.

More than 80 Christian homes and 19 churches were vandalised when hundreds rampaged through a Christian neighbourhood in Jaranwala on Wednesday. Reports that a Koran had been desecrated were broadcast from mosques, with one cleric telling his followers it was "Better to die if you don't care about Islam".

"That cleric should have understood that when you gather people in such a charged environment... in a country in which people were already very sensitive about (blasphemy) it is like adding fuel to fire," Punjab police chief Usman Anwar said. "He's not saying that go and burn their houses. But when the mob gathers, it's really impossible to control that."

He said the cleric was one of 12 persons who were being investigated for using mosque loudspeakers, while more than 125 people have been arrested linked to the vandalism that followed.

China stages war games in 'stern warning' against Taiwan official's visit to the U.S.

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China held air and sea drills around Taiwan on Saturday, in what it said was a "stern warning" after the island's Vice President visited the U.S.

William Lai – the frontrunner in Taiwan's presidential election next year and a vocal opponent of Beijing's claims to the island – returned on Friday from a trip to Paraguay, during which he stopped in New York and San Francisco.

The People's Liberation Army "launched joint air and sea patrols and military exercises of the navy and air force around the island of Taiwan" on Saturday, military spokesperson Shi Yi said.

Taiwan said 42 warplanes entered its air defence zone since 9:00 am, and eight Chinese vessels took part in the exercises. Twenty-six of the warplanes involved crossed the Taiwan Strait median line.

MATSYAFED
E-TENDER NOTICE

Matsyafed invites online tenders for the following works;

1) Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2 Nos. of Flake Ice Units at Matsyafed Units:
2023_MFED_594530_1

Last date: **22.08.2023**.Tender forms & conditions may be downloaded from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.
For additional details, please contact at the below address.

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR (I/C)

KERALA STATE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION FOR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT LIMITED (MATSYAFED)
KAMALESWARAM, MANACAUD P.O.,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695009
Phone: 0471-2458606, 2457756, 2457172
Website: www.matsyafed.in Email: matsyafed@matsyafed.in

No.3349/PORT/EE/AE(M)/ Dredging/23-24
GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PORT DEPARTMENT
Puducherry, dt. 20.08.2023
PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender (2nd Call)
On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited for the work of **"Maintenance Dredging at Pondicherry Port" costing Rs.10,66,62,180/- (inclusive of GST).** For further details please refer the website **www.pudutenders.gov.in** from **10.A.M** on **21.08.2023**.
Executive Engineer
No.257/DIP/AD(Press)/2023-24

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division
E-Tender Notice No: SA-GSU-OT-E-2023-34
Divisional Railway Manager/Electrical/ Salem Division, Salem -5 for and on behalf of the President of India Invites E- Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc. can be viewed/ downloaded from website portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**
E-Tender Notice No, Date and Name of Work: 1) SA-GSU-OT-E-2023-34 Dt 17.08.2023. SA Division - Vanjipalayam (VNJ)- Augmentation of Rd-No.4 to full length capacity and provision of CC Unloading Pavement-Electrical arrangements.
Details: Approx. cost : Rs. 14,72,475.00 /-
EMD : Rs. 29,500.00 /-
Completion Period : 6 Months
For all the works Closing Time & Date: 15.00hrs. on 08.09.2023
For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date: 15.30hrs. on 08.09.2023
All Addendum/ Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Chennai Division
E-Tender ME-29-II-REV-OT-259-2023
Name of work: Implementation of Rooftop Solar PV System At Various Locations of Chennai Division, Southern Railway with The Objective of Generating and Supplying Energy to Railway Installations through RESCO Mode.
E-Tender notice number: MAS/EGS/ET/ 16/2023-2024 dated 18-08-2023.
Tender number: ME-29-11-REV-OT-259-2023
Value of work: Rs. 6,22,57,557.441-
Further details regarding the tender may please be viewed from **www.ireps.gov.in.**
ADEE/W/MAS
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Balasore.
Email ID : sedcbls@yahoo.com
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.- ACEDCBLS-06/2023-24

1.	Name of the Work	Drainage Works (Under D.I.P. Scheme)
2.	Name of Project	4 Nos of individual work
3.	Estimated Cost of individual Works	Varies from Rs.1,50,10,872/- to Rs.6,80,90,336/- (Excluding G.S.T.)
4.	Period of Completion	11 (Eleven Calendar month)
5.	Bid Identification Number	ACEDC,BLS/DDBDK-01-06-2023-24) ACEDC,BLS/DDBDK-02-06-2023-24) ACEDC,BLS/DDBDK-03-06-2023-24) ACEDC,BLS/DDBDK-04-06-2023-24)
6.	Date & Time of availability of Bid document in the Portal	From Dt.24.08.2023 at 10.00 hours to Dt.07.09.2023 up to 17.00 hours
7.	Class of Contractor	Varies from 'B' - Class to 'Spl' - Class
8.	Date of Opening of technical bid	Dt.08.09.2023 at 11.30 hours. In the Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Balasore.
9.	Date of Opening of Financial bid	To be uploaded in portal
10.	Date of Lottery (if required)	To be notified
11.	Procurement Officer/Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bids	Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Balasore.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Web site : www.tendersodisha.gov.in .
Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Balasore.
A-452 : OIPR-32190/11/0008/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE-II, CHANDIKHOLE
Email ID :- seec2chandikhole@gmail.com
'e' Procurement Notice No.ACE, EC-II 02 OF 2023-24(On-line)

1.	Name of the Works	:	1 Construction of V.R. Bridge Across Mallimahara Escape on Baitarani Left Dhamnagar Block of Bhadrak District 2 Canal lining and system Rehabilistation programme (CLSRP) of Osangara Sub-minor, Malipur Sub-minor & Udayapur Sub-minor of Pattamundai Canal. 3 Improvement to left Bank Service road of Disty. No. 16 from RD 3.10Km. to 7.00Km. of Pattamundai Canal. 4 Improvement to Right bank service road on Disty. No. 8B & R-6 Minor of G. Canal near village Angulai. Improvement to the bank service road on 8A Minor of G. Canal village Angulai Service road from Disty No. 16(C) Talapada village and road on left bank of Koriapalla Minor from Dosia UP School to Chulisahi of Pattamundai Canal in the District of Kendrapara. 5 Improvement to CE No. 34(b)A Birupa right embankment from RD 53.350Km. to 55.00Km 6 Improvement to road on left bank of river Gobari from village Raipur to Chatipola 7 Improvement to CE No. 34(b)A Birupa right embankment from RD 55.00Km. to 57.65Km. 8 Improvement to left Bank Service road on Disty. No. 1 1/2 from RD 00.0 Km. to 4.320Km. of GE Canal. 9 Improvement to Panasa Gherry from Panasa view point to Tarini Mandira on New Baitarani Right and Beleswar to Panasa view point on old Batarani Left
2.	Total No. of Packages	:	09 (Nine) No. Individual Packages.
3.	Tender Cost	:	1 Rs. 414.56 Lakh (Approximately) 2 Rs. 262.56 Lakh (Approximately) 3 Rs. 301.21 Lakh (Approximately) 4 Rs. 442.12 Lakh (Approximately) 5 Rs. 160.52 Lakh (Approximately) 6 Rs. 329.27 Lakh (Approximately) 7 Rs. 290.74 Lakh (Approximately) 8 Rs. 273.16 Lakh (Approximately) 9 Rs. 798.25 Lakh (Approximately)
4.	Cost of Bid Document (Non Refundable)	:	Rs.10,000.00 (On-line payment) for each Package
5.	Bid Security	:	1 Rs. 4,14,600/- 2 Rs. 2,62,600/- 3 Rs. 3,01,300/- 4 Rs. 4,42,200/- 5 Rs. 1,60,600/- 6 Rs. 3,29,300/- 7 Rs. 2,90,800/- 8 Rs. 2,73,200/- 9 Rs. 7,98,300/-
6.	Class of Contractor	:	1) "A" for Package No. 1,3,4 &6 ; 2) "B" & "A" for Package No. 2,5,7 & 8 ; 3) "A" and "Special" for Sl.No. 9 Package.
7.	Period of Completion	:	1) 18 (Eighteen) calendar months for Sl.No.1 Package 2) 12 (Twelve) calendar months for Sl.No. from 2 to 9 Package
8.	Other details are as follows.		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)
Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle - II, Chandikhole	ACE,EC-II JPD 02 OF 2023-24 ACE,EC-II KID 01 OF 2023-24 ACE,EC-II KID 02 OF 2023-24 ACE,EC-II KID 03 OF 2023-24 ACE,EC-II KID 04 OF 2023-24 ACE,EC-II KID 05 OF 2023-24 ACE,EC-II KID 06 OF 2023-24 ACE,EC-II KID 07 OF 2023-24 ACE,EC-II JPD 03 OF 2023-24	25/08/2023 at 10 A.M	11/09/2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	12/09/2023 at 11.30 A.M.

9. e-mail Id : seec2chandikhole@gmail.com
Further detailed conditions can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd/- Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle - II, Chandikhole.
A-444 : OIPR-32322/11/0003/2324

Warming-induced glacier retreat could create novel ecosystems

The Hindu Bureau

Climate change caused by human activity under a high-emissions scenario may halve the area covered by glaciers outside the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets by the end of the century, as per a study published in *Nature*. This will have marked ecological and societal cascading consequences, as novel ecosystems develop to fill emerging new habitat. However, there has been no complete spatial analysis carried out to quantify or anticipate the important changeover.

Ecological impact

"Under a high-emissions scenario (in which global greenhouse gas emissions triple by 2075), about half of 2020 glacier area could be lost by 2100," the authors write. "However, this could be curbed by a low-emissions scenario (in which net zero is achieved by 2050), which would reduce this loss to approximately 22%."

As per the modelling exercise undertaken by Jean-Baptiste Bosson from the Conservatory of Natural Areas of Haute-Savoie, Annecy, France and others, the loss of glacier area will range from 22% to 51%, depending on the climate scenario.

It would mean that by 2100, the decline of all glaciers outside the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets may produce "new terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems over an area ranging from the size of Nepal (1,49,000 sq. km) to that of Finland (3,39,000 sq. km)".

Climate scenarios

In the deglaciated areas, the new ecosystems will be characterised by "extreme to mild ecological conditions" encompassing terrestrial, freshwater and even marine habitats.

While such drastic changes might favour primary productivity, it may also lead to increased numbers of non-native species and those that can thrive under certain conditions such as cold-adapted species and generalist species.

"Such vast emergence on a relatively short timescale will add to the complexity of glacial dynamics and will increase the challenge of glacier conservation," notes an accompanying News & Views piece in the journal. Ironically, less than half of glacial areas are located in protected areas.

In response to the possible scenarios, the authors "emphasise the need to urgently and simultaneously enhance climate-change mitigation and the in-situ protection of these ecosystems to secure their existence, functioning and values". This is the first ever attempt towards getting a full understanding of the ecosystem shift associated with global deglaciation.

A trial to test a new path for preventing Alzheimer's

There is no problem posed to brain functioning as long as the oxidative radicals are balanced by antioxidant enzyme glutathione; studies done in India in Alzheimer's patients showed reduced levels of glutathione and oxidative build-up

Jacob Koshy

Last month, a wave of excitement swept through the world of Alzheimer's research after Eli Lilly published results of a trial of their drug, donanemab.

They found that the drug slowed cognitive decline in 47% of those who took the drug, vis-à-vis 29% who got a placebo. 'Slowed' here meant staving off the disease for six months to a year, when judged by multiple factors.

Donanemab, while still in trials, follows on the heels of another drug, lecanemab, from Eisai, a Japanese pharmaceutical company that was fast-tracked by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

A third drug called aducanumab was approved by the FDA in 2021, but as an analysis in the *JAMA Neurology* reported last October, donanemab and aducanumab were not "cost effective," given their cost and the limited improvement in the quality of life.

The common thread in these drugs, other than being monoclonal antibodies (lab-synthesised to mimic natural antibodies) is that they neutralise the build-up of amyloid protein in the brain, believed to be most significantly associated with the disease.

Elevated levels of amyloid form plaque and trigger another protein called tau that damages brain cells, causing the cognitive decline typified by the disease. There were a further set of complications associated with donanemab in the trial. Donanemab, like lecanemab and aducanumab, could cause fatal brain bleeding and seizures.

Nearly a fourth of the participants in the Eli Lilly trial were afflicted by bleeding and three died of it.

Natural defence

The limited success with drugs that target only the amyloid protein buildup suggests that there may be other factors responsible for triggering the disease.

One of these is the oxidative stress hypothesis, which suggests that the brain remains healthy as long as 'free radicals' that are produced in the course of the various biochemical reactions in the body are kept in check by 'anti-oxidants.' This is a theory that predates the nearly quarter-century investigation into amyloid-linked causes of dementia but of late has gained greater significance with researchers around the world, including in India, designing trials and therapies to test its implications.

Free radicals often damage healthy cells, and are believed to be involved in a range of diseases including Parkinson's. The natural defence against such unwanted oxidation is a range of 'antioxidant enzymes'. "The antioxidant enzymes catalyse the reaction of reduction of free radicals, which diminishes their power and hence oxidative cytotoxicity," says a 2013 study in the journal *Psychatria Danubina*.

As long as there is a balance between the oxidative molecules and antioxidants to neutralise them, the body remains healthy. While there are several of these antioxidants, a prominent one is glutathione.

This entity has a way of directly blocking free radicals and also maintains the vitamins E and C in reduced forms, conferring antioxidant properties on them. In brain imaging studies conducted in his lab, Dr. Pravat Mandal, of the National Brain Research Centre, Manesar, has linked low levels of glutathione and high levels of iron and copper (highly oxidative) in the brain with early signs of the cognitive impairment that is typical of Alzheimer's.

Role of oxidative stress

"Oxidative stress is present in everybody's brains. As long as the oxidative radicals are balanced by [antioxidant enzyme] glutathione there is no problem posed to brain functioning. While scientists have speculated on these links for years, it wasn't until brain imaging studies from my lab in Alzheimer's patients showed reduced levels of glutathione and oxidative build-up that there's a lot more interest in this work," he told *The Hindu*.

"From my experience of observing brain images of Alzheimer's patients at various stages of cognitive decline, the lack of glutathione in key regions of the brain is stark and, I've observed, is linked even to psychiatric problems. Oxidative stress is thus the precursor to the amyloid plaque." Dr. Mandal along with his colleague authored a paper in the *ACS Chemical Neuroscience* last week arguing the role of oxidative stress.

Later this year Dr. Mandal and doctors at AIIMS, Delhi are set to begin a clinical trial testing whether cognitively impaired patients would benefit from 500 mg of glutathione being orally administered. Separately, his group is testing, along with Medanta Hospital, Gurugram, if a blood test can determine critically low levels of glutathione in the brain, which currently can only be determined via magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

While the disease is irreversible once plaques set in, identifying the conditions that trigger these plaques can significantly improve life prospects, said Dr. Mandal.

There were 55 million globally living with dementia - the most common cause of which is Alzheimer's disease. This number is expected to double every 20 years and be about 78 million by 2030, according to an estimate by Alzheimer's Disease International.

Limited success with conventional approach

Globally, 55 million people live with dementia — the most common cause of which is Alzheimer's

Significant: A new drug — donanemab — slowed cognitive decline in 47% of participants with Alzheimer's. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- Donanemab and two approved drugs — lecanemab and aducanumab — are monoclonal antibodies which neutralise the build-up of amyloid protein in the brain
- The limited success with these drugs, which target only the amyloid protein buildup, suggests that other factors may be responsible for triggering Alzheimer's
- Free radicals often damage healthy cells and are believed to be involved in a range of diseases including Parkinson's
- The body remains healthy as long as there is a balance between the oxidative molecules and antioxidants to neutralise them
- NBRC researchers found that the lack of antioxidant enzyme glutathione in key regions of the brain is linked to psychiatric problems
- Oxidative stress may thus be a precursor to the amyloid plaque

The world of sugar

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

This is the title of a recent book by Dr. Ulbe Bosma, (Harvard University Press, covered by *Nature Briefing* of August 4, 2023). The book talks about sugar's societal dominance as a recent development. Granulated sugar was made and eaten from the sixth Century in India.

Tale of exploitation

Indeed, Dr. K.T. Achaya, in his book "*Indian Food – a historical companion*" points out that sugarcane was known in India since the times of the Atharva Veda (around 900 BC) and rock sugar (Guda or Gud in Hindi) since 800 BC. Though granulated sugar was known since the sixth century, refined sugar became widely available in Europe only in the 19th Century. As the author points out, sugar's societal dominance is a story of progress and a bitter-sweet tale of exploitation, racism, obesity and environmental destruction.

Slave trade

The article "A history of sugar – the food that nobody needs, but everyone craves for" (*The Conversation*) discusses how sugar was produced in the Middle East, and during the colonial times by slaves in the West Indies, and in Brazil.

There was a huge demand for labour to cultivate the massive sugar plantations in Brazil and the Caribbean.

This need was met by transatlantic slave trade, which resulted in around 12,570,000 human beings being shipped from Africa to the Americas between 1501 and 1867. Mortality rates could reach up to 25% on each voyage, and between one million and two million dead must have been thrown overboard. Thankfully, slave trade has since been abolished. Brazil and India remain top producers, but now nearly 30% of global sugar is made from sugar beet.

Caution: Too much of any form of sugar is bad for health. GETTY IMAGES

Sugar v/s Sugarcane

In India, we are all familiar with sugarcane, coarse and crystal sugar. We also have jaggery, also known as *gud* in Hindi, which is thought to be good for health. Today, people ask whether it is better to have freshly prepared sugarcane juice, sold by vendors, than crystal sugar bought in packed bags.

The answer is yes, since it contains trace amounts of antioxidants and minerals that are lost during the refinement to sugar. The evaporation product of sugarcane juice, jaggery, is often touted as being "healthier" than other forms of sugar, since it has antioxidants, vitamins and minerals.

But we all know that too much of any form of sugar is bad for health. It can lead to diabetes, where excess sugar intake triggers the release of insulin in the bloodstream which can lead to vision loss, and diseases in the heart and kidney. This is why doctors suggest restrictions in the amount of sugars taken in.

Health hazards

Type 1 diabetics have to inject insulin in their blood, while type 2 diabetics have to carefully manage their blood glucose, and use substitutes like steviol glycoside or sucralose. A recent company called Gene Clinic has come out with a device which sticks to your arm or abdomen just like a bandage, which you wear continuously. It tells you your glucose content, and when you have to consult your doctor, if needed.

Given all this, it is best to reduce the amount of sugar/sweets we consume. Best for our health.

SNAPSHOTS

Wolf-Rayet star is expected to produce a magnetar

Observations and stellar evolution models of a hot, helium-rich Wolf-Rayet star indicate that it will produce a magnetar when it explodes as a supernova, according to a new study *(Science)*. The findings provide new insights into how magnetars – the most magnetic objects in the Universe – are formed. A magnetar is a type of neutron star with an powerful magnetic field. Neutron stars form in supernovae that occur when the core of a massive star collapses. The origins of magnetars remain unclear.

Bacterial reshaping speeds hydrocarbon breakdown

"Oil-eating" *Alcanivorax borkumensis* bacteria survives by consuming hydrocarbons as a sole carbon and energy source. Biofilm formation plays a big role in the degradation and consumption of hydrocarbons by this bacterium. When cultures that had longer exposure to oil formed a thin dendritic biofilm, which alters the oil-water interfacial tension and reshape the oil droplets as bacterial cells proliferate. This leads to an increase in the surface area of a droplet, thus accelerating consumption by the bacteria.

Fires linked to megafaunal extinctions in La Brea

Pleistocene megafaunal extinctions from Southern California were driven by fires in an ecosystem made increasingly vulnerable by climate change and human impacts, according to a new study. The findings provide insights into the dynamics that contributed to extinctions. The disappearance of megafauna at La Brea coincided with vegetation change and aridification at the end of the Bølling-Allerød – a climatic warming event that occurred between 14.6 and 12.8 ka.

Question Corner

Possible solution

Is it possible to remove microplastics from water?

Could plants be the answer to the looming threat of microplastic pollution? Scientists at University of British Columbia's BioProducts Institute found that if you add tannins – natural plant compounds that make your mouth pucker if you bite into an unripe fruit – to a layer of wood dust, you can create a filter that traps virtually all microplastic particles present in water. As per a release, the team analysed microparticles released from popular tea bags made of polypropylene. They found that their method trapped from 95.2% to as much as 99.9% of plastic particles in a column of water, depending on plastic type. When tested in mouse models, the process was proved to prevent the accumulation of microplastics in the organs. Microplastics in a solution come in different sizes, shapes and electrical charges. By taking advantage of the different molecular interactions around tannic acids, the researchers were able to remove virtually all of these different microplastic types.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Are turmeric supplements advisable?

Is there a risk of liver injury? What do studies on curcumin show? Does it have anti-oxidant properties?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:
Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the country's regulator of medicines, medical devices and biologicals, issued a medical advisory last week warning Australians of the risk of liver injury from using medicines and herbal supplements containing turmeric or its active ingredient, curcumin.

Why was this advisory issued?
The TGA said that until June 29, 2023, it had received 18 reports of liver problems experienced by consumers taking products containing curcuma longa (turmeric) and/or curcumin. These followed an investigation the agency undertook to review the safety of the products, after instances of their consumption and liver injury were reported in Australia and internationally. The evidence from nine of these reports had enough information to suggest that a liver injury may have been caused by curcuma longa or a curcumin product. Two of these cases were severe, including one that resulted in death. In four of the nine cases, there were no other ingredients likely to have contributed to the liver injury. The other five cases involved products that contained other ingredients that may have contributed to the liver injury, the advisory noted.

Whether increasing the bioavailability of curcumin and packaging them in supplements makes them effective and safe for use in medicines is still being debated

The TGA's verdict, following the investigation, is that there is a "rare risk" of liver injury from taking curcuma longa and/or curcumin in medicinal dosage forms. People with existing or previous liver problems were more likely to develop this rare adverse event. There are over 600 listed medicines, legally available in Australia, that contain these curcuma species and/or curcumin, according to the advisory.

Does turmeric have health benefits?
The TGA warning says that the risk of liver injury did not appear to relate to curcuma longa consumed in "typical" dietary amounts as a food. As a staple ingredient in South and South East Asian cuisine, turmeric is also used in Ayurvedic and Chinese-medicine concoctions. Several studies, over the last five decades, have investigated the properties of curcumin and report it to have anti-oxidant properties that can help with inflammation. These include arthritis and infections. Research teams at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru have reported that curcumin used along with the drug Artemisinin was effective in treating malaria when tested on mice. There have also been studies investigating the drug as an adjuvant in chemotherapy based on results in mice and animal studies. However, their effect in human trials have been inconclusive.

Why is curcumin being used in supplements?
One of the challenges of turmeric and by extension curcumin is that very little of it is absorbed, or made 'bioavailable', by the body. Much scientific effort has been expended over the decades to improve its bioavailability. A popular approach is to use piperine, the major active component of black pepper, which improves bioavailability by 2000%, says a 2017 review in the peer-reviewed journal *Foods*. However, whether increasing the bioavailability of curcumin and packaging them in supplements makes them effective and safe for use in medicines is still being debated with no conclusive evidence emerging from trials.

Is Australia the only country to warn about turmeric supplements?
The Australian TGA cites reports of 20 hepatitis cases in France and an investigation by ANSES, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety, into 100 reports of adverse effects, including 15 reports of hepatitis, potentially related to the consumption of food supplements containing turmeric or curcumin. The ANSES report underlines that turmeric has "choleretic" properties, which means it stimulates the secretion of bile to improve digestion, and therefore, it is advisable that those with bile duct disease should avoid turmeric. Curcumin could also interact with medications such as anticoagulants, cancer drugs and immunosuppressants, reducing their safety and effectiveness, they note.

Is there a 'safe limit' on the amount of turmeric that can be consumed?
The European Food Safety Authority has set an acceptable daily intake of 180 mg of curcumin per day for a 60 kg adult as the safe level of consumption. A World Health Organization/Food and Agricultural Organisation advisory recommends 3 mg/kg of body weight. India's Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has standards that packaged turmeric must comply with but nothing on the recommended dietary allowance.

Why is BRICS summit important for India?

Will India and China have the opportunity to have bilateral talks on the Line of Actual Control dispute? How will fruitful discussions have a bearing on the G20 summit in Delhi next month? Will Russian President Vladimir Putin attend the meeting?

Suhasini Haidar

The story so far:
All eyes this week are on Johannesburg, as leaders of the Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) grouping are hosted by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. BRICS is essentially a movement of "emerging economies", and thus gives a salience to economic issues, but given the geopolitical flux especially after the war in Ukraine, this BRICS summit takes on a new importance. It is, therefore, no surprise that many Western capitals are watching the summit closely.

Why is the 15th BRICS summit important?
This BRICS meet comes at an important geopolitical and geoeconomic moment – this is the first in-person summit since 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic. Even in 2022, when COVID had receded, the remnants of the pandemic remained in China, and the summit was hosted via videoconference. This is also the first in-person meeting since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, an event that has cast a long shadow not only over global stability, but food, fertilizer and fuel (energy) security. Given its composition, BRICS deliberations are perceived to carry a "counter-western" slant, and will be of importance as the U.S. and EU still hope to try and "isolate" Russia over the conflict. This is also the first summit since Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva Lula returned to power in Brazil, who represents a more socialist, anti-western politics than his predecessor President Bolsonaro.

What is in it for India?
For India, this BRICS summit carries special importance. This is the first in-person summit since the military standoff with China at the Line of Actual Control began in 2020, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will come face to face with President Xi Jinping at the BRICS meet. While they have attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand, and had a brief meeting at the G20 in Bali last year; at the BRICS summit they will be in a very small group of four (with President Putin attending virtually), and will have many opportunities to hold bilateral talks. Ahead of the summit, the 19th round of India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting resulted in a joint statement last weekend, seen as a positive sign ahead of a possible Modi-Xi engagement. This meeting would be significant in terms of resolving the LAC situation, where an estimated 1,00,000 soldiers stand at the boundary on either side. But there are other reasons too why this meeting is necessary. Just over two weeks after the BRICS summit, India will host the G20 summit, and Prime Minister Modi will want to ensure full attendance by the leaders, which include all BRICS members.

On the agenda is BRICS' expansion, with consensus growing about the inclusion of Iran, Argentina, the UAE and Saudi Arabia

In addition, India wants more cooperation from China and Russia that are blocking discussions on a common language for the Leader's declaration to be released at the summit on September 9-10. Mr. Modi might use the forum for talks on the issues over the paragraphs on Ukraine, climate change, debt financing and others that are being held up by their objections.

High stakes: Vladimir Putin shakes hands with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa after the Russia-Africa summit in Russia on July 29. REUTERS

Who will be there?
Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Brazilian President Lula will join President Ramaphosa for meetings on August 22-24, and will deliberate on the "Johannesburg Declaration" to be released at the end of the summit. President Xi is also in South Africa for a separate bilateral state visit, while Mr. Modi will club the BRICS travel with a visit to Greece on his way back to Delhi. Russian President Vladimir Putin is not attending "by mutual agreement", said Mr. Ramaphosa's office, indicating the issue over Mr. Putin's appearance at the BRICS, given that there is a warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against him, which would have made it difficult for South Africa, an ICC signatory, to ignore. Mr. Putin will attend the summit via video and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will officiate at the event in Johannesburg.

Apart from BRICS leaders, South Africa has invited all 55 members of the African Union (AU) to the event and about 20 other leaders from Asia, South America and small Island States who represent the Global South for sessions on the sidelines of the summit. The message from the invitations is a clear pitch for the developing world to come together on economic issues. In addition, many of the countries that are seeking to join the increasingly important grouping will be represented at leadership levels.

What's the big item on the agenda?
During the summit, the leaders of BRICS will confer among themselves, and also take part in the BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue. A major item on the agenda is on the expansion of BRICS. Conceived of in the early 2000s in a Goldman Sachs paper as a grouping of the fastest growing developing economies not in the G-7, BRIC nations held their first summit in 2009 – and inducted South Africa in 2010. While their economies haven't lived up to their promise, BRICS has produced some significant outcomes, like the New Development Bank, Contingency Reserve Arrangement for currency, an R&D centre for vaccines and others. More broadly, it is seen as an attractive alternative to the G-7 developed countries "club". More than 40 countries have shown an interest in joining BRICS, and at least 19 countries have applied formally for membership. Of these, consensus appears to be developing around four countries: Argentina, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Iran. Mr. Modi's telephone conversation with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Friday discussed cooperating over "BRICS expansion", the MEA noted, indicating that some sort of decision on inducting new members is expected.

What else is expected to be discussed?
BRICS leaders are also expected to take forward earlier talks on intra-BRICS trading in national currencies, although a much-touted plan pushing for a "BRICS currency" to challenge the dollar does not appear to be on the agenda. The Johannesburg Declaration will include language acceptable to all the countries on a number of global developments. In addition, South Africa which has chosen the theme "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Multilateralism" for the year, seeks to introduce initiatives in its priority areas, including an equitable and just transition on climate change issues; unlocking opportunities through the African Continental Free Trade Area; and strengthening the meaningful participation of women in peace processes. Indian officials will also look out for language proposed by China, by far the biggest economy in the grouping, to promote Beijing's key initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative, and the new Global Development Initiative (GDI) as part of an economy roadmap for BRICS.

India had refused to sign onto an Economy Roadmap at the SCO meeting chaired by India in July 2023 for the same reasons.

How is the SC tackling gender stereotyping?

What are the new guidelines on the use of words and phrases to describe women and their issues for both lawyers and judges? How do harmful stereotypes perpetuate inequalities? What are some of the judgments which do away with gender norms?

Sudipta Datta

The story so far:
Discarding "archaic ideas with patriarchal overtones", particularly while describing women and their issues, the Supreme Court of India has released a set of new words and phrases to be used by both lawyers and judges in court. In his foreword, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud writes that 'The Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes' aims to assist the legal community in "identifying, understanding and combating stereotypes about women. It contains a glossary of gender-unjust terms and suggests alternative words or phrases which may be used while drafting pleadings as well as orders and judgments."

What are some of the changes?
To avoid the use of harmful gender stereotypes in judicial decision-making and writing, the handbook identifies language that promotes such stereotypes, and offers new words. For example, under the guidelines, it will be incorrect to say "adulteress"; instead, the following words have to be used: "Woman who has engaged in sexual relations outside of marriage." It is no longer proper to prefix "chaste" or "obedient" before woman and wife; plain "woman" and "wife" will do.

'Stereotypes lead to exclusion and discrimination at the workplace, educational institutions and in public places'

GETTY IMAGES

How should sexual violence be looked at?
The handbook says an individual who has been affected by sexual violence may identify as either a "survivor" or "victim".

Stressing on consent, the guidelines point out that the clothing or attire of a woman must be independent of questions of sexual relations. "A man who touches a woman without her consent must not be permitted to take the defence that the woman invited his touch by dressing in a particular way." There are a host of dos and don'ts on how to handle issues of rape and assault. The Court shatters the stereotype that women who are sexually assaulted or raped file a complaint about the injustice immediately and if they complain after a time, they are lying. "It takes courage and strength to report a sexual offence because of the stigma attached to it," the handbook says, adding, "women may therefore register a complaint after a lapse of some time, when she thinks she is able to."

Why are stereotypes harmful?
On a micro-level, the handbook states that stereotypes lead to exclusion and discrimination at the workplace, educational institutions and in public places. It cites the example of a stereotype that individuals from oppressed castes are not as accomplished in school or university in comparison to individuals from oppressor castes. This, it says, may cause members of oppressed castes to face additional mental pressure when writing an examination. "A student from an oppressed caste who is aware of the stereotype about their community will not only have to worry about doing well in the examination, but also be burdened with the additional worry that if they perform badly in the examination, it will reinforce the stereotype concerning their community. This added pressure may have an adverse impact on their performance in the examination." Compare this to what the Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar informed Parliament recently. He provided data that over 25,000 reserved category students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and other minority groups dropped out of central universities and the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) over the last five years. "The dropout in undergraduate programmes is attributed to withdrawal due to wrong choices filled, poor performances and personal and medical reasons," he said.

As for women, the OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) points out that labels whether overtly hostile (such as "women are irrational") or seemingly benign ("women are nurturing"), perpetuate inequalities. For example, it says, the traditional view of women as care givers means that child care responsibilities often fall exclusively on women. The Supreme Court has taken care of it with these directives: "A person's gender does not determine or influence their capacity for rational thought," and "People of all genders are equally suited to the task of caring for others."

Has the Supreme Court taken up stereotypes in its verdicts?
The Supreme Court has highlighted verdicts that have rejected stereotypes and which can be utilised by judges to shun gender stereotypes. For instance, in *Joseph Shine versus Union of India*, a Constitution Bench struck down the offence of "adultery" under Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code. Observing that the law on adultery was but a codified rule of patriarchy, it said, "Society ascribes impossible virtues to a woman and confines her to a narrow sphere of behaviour by an expectation of conformity." In *State of Jharkhand versus Shailendra Kumar Rai*, the Court reiterated its categorical ban on the "two finger test" and said it was irrelevant to determination of rape and that it violated the dignity of rape survivors or victims. In *State of Punjab versus Gurmit Singh*, it held that a testimony of a rape survivor or victim is "inherently credible." The delay in lodging an FIR can be due to a variety of reasons, it said.

Will it have an impact on the ground?
For Uma Mahadevan-Dasgupta, who is in the IAS, it's a great first step. The table in the handbook, which lays down the stereotype and the reality in two columns side by side, is an important takeaway for her, because it removes so many qualifiers that judge women. "The handbook, by the highest court of the land, is going to have an impact. However slow, it will lead to a mindset change, because language is a powerful tool."

Myanmar's 'killing machine'

Tatmadaw

The military, which has ruled the Southeast Asian country for most of its existence since independence, has started showing signs of weakness after the 2021 coup amid reports of low morale, defections and desertions

Saumya Kalia

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Circa 1941, seven years before Myanmar (then Burma) was liberated from the British colonial rule, a ceremony was afoot in Bangkok. It featured the Thirty Comrades, a revolutionary group that spearheaded Burma's Independence movement. The men drew each other's blood with a single syringe, mixed it in a silver bowl with alcohol and quaffed the potion.

A drop of blood to seal a vow of loyalty to the nation, and the Tatmadaw – Burmese for "army" – was born.

The protagonists have ruled Myanmar for most of its existence, courting the label of a 'killing machine', designed to eliminate any threat – internal or global, real or contrived. They claim to have a standing force of 5,00,000 men, a rank of fighters who have unleashed some of the most terrible horrors, including mass rape, torture and genocidal crimes against ethnic minorities. In 2021, they ruthlessly consolidated power by ousting the democratically elected leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, jailing her on corruption charges and declaring a state of emergency.

Bloodshed soaks their history, and that of Myanmar, which is the site of the longest-running armed conflict in the world. . The Tatmadaw has built a 'state within the state', insulated from 'enemies' beyond, observers note.

A violent history

"The modern state of Burma was born as a military occupation," historian Thant Myint-U writes. The Burma Independence Army (BIA) collaborated with Japan against the British and was joined by other anti-colonial militias that shaped the contours of modern-day Tatmadaw. Among the ranks of the BIA was Aung San, the architect of Myanmar's independence and Ms. Suu Kyi's father.

Myanmar limped to freedom in 1948, but descended soon into ethnic factions due to internal conflict. In 1962, the military staged the first of its four coups to take control from an elected government. They rewrote the citizenship law in 1982 to automatically grant citizenship to different ethnic groups, excluding minorities such as the Rohingya Muslims. The 8888 uprising (on August 8, 1988) marked the first pro-democracy revolt led by student activists, but it was brutally put down in which about 5,000 people were killed. The Tatmadaw set out to 'reconsolidate' Myanmar "to create conditions for passing authority to a constitutional government", analyst Robert Taylor observed.

Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) fizzed into existence, but she was placed on a 15-year-long house arrest. The Tatmadaw's political foothold simultaneously strengthened, curbing resistance such as the 2007 Saffron revolution. The regime in 2008 adopted a Constitution which ensured the military never falls prey to civilian control. In 2011, the Tatmadaw uncharacteristically agreed to hold parliamentary elections and implement democratic reforms as part of a 'liberalisation' policy. They were in a power-sharing agreement with Ms. Suu Kyi's government for five years, before the 2021 coup.

Political institution

Understanding the Tatmadaw raises three challenges, scholar Andrew Selth argued. How do you measure a country's military capability? What is the context of modern Myanmar? Is it possible to objectively articulate Tatmadaw's role?

Researchers note the military came to be a desirable career and a site of social mobility, in the context of corruption, a flailing economy and ethnic factions. "The killers in uniforms [learn] that they are virtuous defenders of the country, of the race and of Buddhism," human rights activist Dr. Maung Zarni told *The Diplomat*. "Never hesitating, always ready to sacrifice blood and sweat is the Tatmadaw," display lofty banners on the streets. In 1989, they changed the country's official name to Myanmar. Myanmar is made up of 130 ethnic minorities, with Buddhist Bamars forming the majority. Many Bamars serve in the upper echelons of the military.

The Tatmadaw owns banks, hospitals, schools, farms; they run publishing houses, stations, a film industry which produces tales valorising the army. The Tatmadaw, the 15th largest military in the world, accounts for 44% of the government's expenditure.

Unlike other military juntas, the Tatmadaw are less politicians in uniforms than 'war fighters', adhering to a script of ultranationalism, as Mary Callahan wrote in her book *Making Enemies*.

The military tells many stories about itself, to itself: In the constricted world of the Tatmadaw, an enemy is always lurking about. Ms. Suu Kyi's November 2020 victory was portrayed as electoral fraud; American philanthropist George Soros is accused of funding pro-democracy activists and politicians; a 'rapacious' Muslim organisation is attempting to destroy the Buddhist faith.

A former military official told *The New York Times* that in his first year of training, he was shown a film that portrayed the 1988 democracy activists as "frenzied animals slicing off soldiers' heads".

Since its formation, the Tatmadaw are fighting on multiple fronts, including roughly 250 local defence groups and ethnic armed organisations. Gwen Robinson, a Myanmar expert, told the BBC that this degree of resistance has accustomed them to using lethal force and violence within their own borders. "It's shaped the Tatmadaw into this ruthless fighting machine that will just follow orders robotically."

Moment of crisis

The Tatmadaw's mythmaking is showing signs of leakage post the 2021 military coup, observers say. There are reports of low morale, defections and desertions; some estimates put the size of Myanmar's military as low as 95,000. Recruitment levels have dropped, combat units are poorly trained amid rumours about a widening gulf between the privileged elite and the ranks. A report found the Tatmadaw exerts real control in only 30%-40% of the territory. The army-backed Union Solidarity and Development party plans to replace the current head with a loyalist to Tatmadaw's chief Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, a reshuffle "aimed at adding more military hard-liners", Chetan Rana wrote in *The Hindu*.

There's a crisis of belief too among majoritarian groups who have witnessed the military killing its own people in the aftermath of the 2021 coup. Some have ceased calling General Aung Hlaing's army (charged with perpetrating the Rohingya genocide and leading the coup) the 'Tatmadaw', a reverential term coined for Burma's 'Royal' Army. They prefer '*Sit-tat*' instead, avoiding any reference to glory. Some also use the cruder '*Sit-kew*'. Dog soldiers. Scholar Tun Myint argued that the military was once seen as a feared entity (*kjau zaja*), but their image today is closer to *jun zaja*, Burmese for a feeling that goes beyond hate.

THE GIST

- The Burma Independence Army (BIA) collaborated with Japan against the British and was joined by other anti-colonial militia that shaped the contours of modern-day Tatmadaw
- Myanmar got freedom in 1948, but descended soon into ethnic factions due to internal conflict. In 1962, the military staged the first of its four coups to take control from an elected government
- They rewrote the citizenship law in 1982 to automatically grant citizenship to different ethnic groups, excluding minorities such as the Rohingya Muslims

Faith and violence

Blasphemy laws

Violent attacks on churches and Christians in Pakistan's Jaranwala have turned the spotlight once again on the country's controversial blasphemy laws

Kallol Bhattacherjee

PHOTO CREDIT: AFP

Last Wednesday, a mob attacked a Christian colony in Pakistan's Jaranwala and burned 22 churches and looted a large number of houses forcing hundreds of citizens of the minority community to flee to neighbouring areas. The mob demanded that the police hand over two men who they claimed had committed blasphemy. Like previous incidents, the police and other law enforcement forces stood as mute witnesses for days before swinging into action.

This was not an isolated incident. In December 2021, in the industrial town of Sialkot, nearly 50 km from Jaranwala, a Sri Lankan Buddhist, Priyantha Diyanwada, was lynched by hundreds at a factory where he worked as a manager for nearly seven years. Diyanwada was accused of removing a poster with religious remarks.

Pakistan brought terrorism charges against 900 individuals and arrested several persons who were part of the mob. Diyanwada's remains were sent to his family in Sri Lanka. Prime Minister Imran Khan bestowed Tamgha-e-Shujaat, a bravery award, on Malik Adnan, a colleague of Diyanwada who tried initially to protect him from the mob. But the case against the attackers hasn't reached anywhere.

In Pakistan, blasphemy is punishable by death. These incidents showed how the blasphemy laws have become an excuse for vigilantism in the era of social media.

In 2011, Governor of Punjab Salman Taseer was gunned down outside a pizza outlet in Islamabad's picturesque Kohsar market, which is known for its cuisine and book stores.

Taseer had boldly taken on the supporters of the blasphemy laws and defended Christian farm worker Asiya Bibi, who was convicted of blasphemy by a court in 2010 and sentenced to death. The sentencing triggered an outcry among liberal Pakistanis which drew Taseer into the issue. Mumtaz Qadri, who fired the shots at him, was Taseer's bodyguard. He was given death sentence by a court in 2016 and executed later, but his grave became a place of worship for those who support the law.

Political links

Pakistan's Supreme Court overturned the death sentence for Asiya Bibi who was given asylum in Canada in 2019. The case that shook Pakistan showed that the legal system could be moved to defend the life of a person falsely accused of blasphemy, but it is far more difficult to deal with elements that have made blasphemy a case for generating political fortune.

This difficulty is rooted in the history of Pakistan, stretching back to the Zia-ul-haq years when the Hudood ordinances were brought in 1979 as Gen. Zia wanted to make Pakistani laws in sync with Sharia. The region also has a history of religious polarisation going back to the days of the Khilafat movement and the Hindu-Muslim politics of pre-Partition Punjab, when the publication of a controversial book on the Prophet led to the assassination of publisher Rajpal Malhotra or Mahashey Rajpal in Lahore 1929. It is said that the publication was a tit-for-tat act against the publication of a book targeting a Hindu figure.

Current political links between the extremist foot soldiers of Pakistan and political parties are therefore not new and from time to time, such groups have emerged to stoke tensions over blasphemy. Foremost among such contemporary forces is the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan, which had supported death for Asiya Bibi.

Latest reports on the Jaranwala violence have shown that a few locals who were displaced on Wednesday have returned to the neighbourhood and authorities are trying to restore normalcy. The locals have said the rioters did not belong to Jaranwala and appeared to have come from outside. The reports prompted Karamat Ali, executive director of the Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research in Karachi, to argue that the incident shows that elements within the Pakistani state might be involved in creating it as a diversionary event to steer people's attention from other issues.

Pragmatic progressive

Ro Khanna

The U.S. Congressman, a member of the progressive wing of the Democratic Party, seems to be settling into a Clinton-like pragmatist mode

G. Sampath

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna, 46, led a bipartisan congressional delegation to India last week. During the visit, he attended the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, among others. Media reports suggested that human rights and the treatment of minorities were the major agenda of his visit. While he did meet with victims of the recent communal violence in Haryana, as well as representatives from the Kuki community from Manipur, the delegation's agenda also included trade ties, technology transfer, and defence cooperation.

Mr. Khanna is a member of the progressive wing of the Democratic Party, alongside the likes of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Pramila Jayapal, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. He is the co-chair of the U.S. Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans.

He likes to highlight his connection with India, especially the fact that his grandfather Amarnath Vidyalankar was a freedom fighter who went to jail with Mahatma Gandhi and later became a Member of Parliament from the Congress party.

In 2019, in the days following India's dilution of Article 370, Mr. Khanna had tweeted, "It's the duty of every American politician of Hindu faith to stand for pluralism, reject Hindutva, and speak for equal rights for Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists and Christians. That is the vision of India my grandfather Amarnath Vidyalankar fought for."

His statement sparked an immediate and vicious backlash from the Hindutva ecosystem. In the four years since, political observers have noted a distinct softening of his stance toward Hindutva, and his progressive credentials have begun to attract greater scrutiny. Many attribute this subtle shift to the increasing clout of Hindu nationalists, both among the Indian disapora in the U.S., and in American politics.

Indian-Americans, who number around four million, are the second largest immigrant group in the U.S, after Mexicans. The constituency Mr. Khanna represents, California's 17th congressional district, is remarkable for two reasons. It roughly overlaps with what the world likes to call 'Silicon Valley', and it is a district where Asian Americans are in the majority. Mr. Khanna has been effective in leveraging both these constituencies for his political advances.

The interlocutor

Mr. Khanna is a second generation immigrant. Born in Philadelphia, Mr. Khanna studied economics from the University of Chicago before graduating from Yale Law School. He subsequently worked as an intellectual property lawyer, with clients from the tech industry. As a Congressman elected from Silicon Valley, he has fashioned himself as a 'progressive capitalist' – someone who is not only an effective interlocutor between the messianic fantasies of tech billionaires and federal regulators, but also between the libertarian impulses of IT employers and the social needs of their employees.

His branding as a progressive Democrat concerned with human rights issues, though a bit frayed, stands for now. But civil rights groups in the U.S. have been vocal in their criticism of his proactive lobbying – which involved orchestrating a bipartisan letter to Speaker Kevin McCarthy – for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address a joint session of the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Khanna has responded to this criticism in two ways: first, by pointing to India's strategic importance, both as a geopolitical ally, and for the U.S.'s economic 'decoupling' from China; second, by arguing that it is better to engage with regimes accused of human rights violations rather than lecture them from a moralistic pulpit.

Having started out as a progressive idealist in the Bernie Sanders mould, Mr. Khanna's progressivism seems to be settling – some might say 'maturing' – into a Clinton-like pragmatist mode as he masters the difficult art of juggling the contradictory expectations of political constituencies.

INBRIEF

BPCL names cricketer Rahul Dravid as brand ambassador

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) has named cricketer Rahul Dravid as its new brand ambassador. Mr. Dravid will endorse BPCL's Pure for Sure initiative and MAK lubricants range. "As one of the greatest cricketers of our time, Rahul Dravid stood out not only for his exemplary batting skills but also his strong integrity and dependability," said G. Krishnakumar, CMD, BPCL. "Rahul truly epitomises our values of trust, integrity, ethics, service and consistency."

Government unveils Green hydrogen standards

The government unveiled Green hydrogen standards and included electrolysis and biomass-based methods in its definition. In a significant move for the progress of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the government has notified the Green Hydrogen Standard for India, the New and Renewable Energy Ministry said. The standards outline the emission thresholds to be met for hydrogen produced to be classified as 'Green', i.e., from renewable sources. PTI

BHIVE to set up ₹400-cr. fund to buy commercial real estate

Bengaluru-based co-working firm BHIVE group is setting up a ₹400-crore alternate investment fund (AIF) to acquire commercial real estate. In a statement, BHIVE said the company has unveiled new co-working-focused ₹400 crore CAT-2 AIF. The new fund will offer an opportunity to High Net-worth Individuals (HNIs) and family-owned businesses looking to participate in the commercial real estate growth story with a minimum investment of ₹1 crore. PTI

I-T department implements e-advance ruling in Mumbai

An NRI investor can obtain certainty on tax liability even before undertaking the investment in India; resident entity can obtain a ruling on taxability of a transaction and avoid lengthy litigation

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Income Tax department on Saturday said the boards for advance rulings have been operationalised in Delhi and Mumbai, which will function through e-mail-based procedures and conduct hearings through video conference.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had constituted three boards for advance rulings in September, 2021. Further, the scheme of e-advance ruling was introduced with an objective to make the entire process of advance rulings with a minimal interface and impart greater efficiency, transparency and accountability.

On the go: The boards started functioning via e-mail procedures and hearings through video conferencing. THE HINDU

'Video conferencing'

"Subsequently, the Boards for Advance Rulings have been operationalised in Delhi and Mumbai. These Boards started functioning through e-mail-based procedures and conducting hearing through video conferencing," the CBDT said in a statement.

A non-resident investor can obtain certainty on liability towards income tax even before undertaking the investment in India.

Further, even a resident entity can obtain a ruling on the taxability of a transaction and avoid long-drawn litigation, as the scheme is also available to a resident taxpayer seeking an advance ruling concerning its tax liability arising out of one or more transactions, valuing ₹100 crore or more in total.

Public sector undertakings (PSUs) can take advantage of getting advance rulings on questions of facts or law pending before any income tax authority or appellate tribunal.

Adding glitter: The transaction is expected to be financed through a combination of cash balances, internal accruals and debt. REUTERS

Titan to buy out CaratLane founder Sacheti for ₹4,621 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Titan would hold an aggregate of 98.28% of the equity share capital and voting rights in CaratLane

Titan Company Ltd. said it has signed a share-purchase pact with Mithun Sacheti, the founder of CaratLane Trading Private Ltd., and his family to acquire all the shares held by them, representing 27.18% (on a fully diluted basis) of the total paid-up equity of CaratLane, for ₹4,621 crore.

A subsidiary of Titan, CaratLane is an unlisted private company engaged in the manufacture and sale of jewellery items.

Titan, a joint venture between the Tata Group and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation, started as a watch company but has diversified into jewellery and eye care.

Debt, equity

Subsequent to the transaction, Titan would hold an aggregate of 98.28% of the equity share capital and voting rights in CaratLane.

Titan's jewellery segment brand architecture includes Tanishq, Mia, Zoya and CaratLane

"The transaction will be subject to completion of customary regulatory approvals and closing conditions and is expected to be financed through a combination of cash balances, internal accruals and debt," Titan said.

"We believe that the growth journey of CaratLane has only begun and has a long way to go," Titan MD C. K. Venkataraman said in a statement.

"Having dreamt of making beautiful jewellery accessible and affordable to all, I am immensely proud of what we have collectively achieved at CaratLane in the past 15 years and where the business stands today," said Mr. Sacheti, Founder and MD, CaratLane.

"Looking into the future, there couldn't be a more ideal destination for CaratLane than Titan and the Tata Group who will provide the perfect opportunities for CaratLane to continue to grow from strength to strength," the CaratLane founder added.

'Demand to help lift food packaging to $86 bn by '29'

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The Indian food and beverage packaging industry, growing by 14.8% annually, is expected to reach $86 billion in 2029, following rapid urbanisation, rising disposable incomes and evolving consumption, All India Food Processors Association said on Saturday.

"Post-COVID, demand for natural food ingredients has surged," it said.

Schwing Stetter urges TN to fast-track land allotment for ₹400 crore expansion plan

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Schwing Stetter India (SSI) has urged the Tamil Nadu government to fast-track the land allotment process for its ₹400 crore expansion programme at Cheyyar to meet its timeline.

The Indian subsidiary of German concreting machinery manufacturer has pressed the panic button as its request for land allotment has been pending with a State government agency. The approaching Parliamentary elections has also raised concerns about the implementation of big ticket projects.

V.G. Sakthikumar

"We need about 40 acres of land for expansion," said Schwing Stetter India Pvt. Ltd. CMD V.G. Sakthikumar. "We have given our request and are waiting for the allotment," he added. "It would be better, if we can get the land at Cheyyar itself. Otherwise, it does not make sense," Mr. Sakthikumar stressed.

SSI plans to invest ₹300 crore on a new plant and ₹100 crore for expansion.

'Farm machinery sector may touch ₹15,000 crore in FY26'

'India is the largest tractor market in the world having crossed the milestone of 1 million with a CAGR of about 6% over the last 7-8 years'

INTERVIEW

Hemant Sikka

Vikas Vasudeva

With farm mechanisation an essential component in the growth of sustainable agriculture in India, the country's farm machinery industry is expected to grow from ₹9,200 crore in FY22 to ₹15,000 crore in FY26, says Hemant Sikka, President - Farm Equipment Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra. Excerpts:

How important is automation technology in the farming sector?

I believe automation technologies are very important in farming, in order to reduce manual interventions and operator fatigue. This will ultimately enhance productivity, minimise costs for farmers to experience efficient farming, especially in compact field conditions.

At Mahindra, we launched our new OJA range on August 15, with cutting-edge technologies addressing the needs of varied farming and non-farming applications, including like paddy, cotton, sugarcane, hobby farming, landscaping, vineyard and horticulture.

These technologies, largely seen on larger tractors in some advanced farming markets, will empower smaller farmers to do much more.

Are you looking to introduce self-driving tractors in India?

Technologies used on large farms can be made affordable for small farmers, opines Sikka.

While we at Mahindra did showcase a driverless or self-driving tractor some years ago, we feel it is too early to introduce a self-driving tractor in India.

What is the growth potential in India's farm machinery market?

Farm mechanisation is one of the essential components of growth of sustainable agriculture in India, especially in the context of diminishing agricultural labour.

India's share of the global tractor industry is $10 billion of the global tractor industry, which is at $60 billion, making India largely tractorised.

With mechanisation skewed towards land preparation, for many other operations simple implements are used or the tasks are done by manual labour, also varying greatly by region.

In November 2022, we inaugurated our first-ever exclusive farm machinery (non-tractor) plant in Pithampur in M.P. We have invested about ₹200 crore in this facility. This plant will roll out products like harvesters and rice transplanters.

How do you see growth of the tractor market?

India is the largest tractor market in the world having crossed a milestone of 1 million with a CAGR of about 6% over the last 7-8 years. Some of the drivers of growth are under penetration of farm mechanisation, farm-labour shortage, better availability of water due to five consecutive years of good monsoon.

Also, governments' focus on rural infrastructure in the form of dams, roads etc. to grow rural income and farm mechanisation, good support price of major crops leading to better cash in hand and rural incomes for the farmer, as well the governments' push towards farm mechanisation and availability of tractor finance, has led to the growth.

The plight of farmers has been a matter of concern in India. Can mechanisation help?

Yes. Farm mechanisation can definitely help resolve several problems related to drudgery and for quick turnaround in farmlands.

And at Mahindra, our purpose of transforming farming to enrich lives guides us to take technologies used on large landholding farms across the world and make them accessible and more so, affordable for the smaller landholding farmer across the world.

And to do this, it is important that we make these products in India.

(The writer was in Cape Town at the invitation of Mahindra & Mahindra)

Cotton supply situation comfortable so far: SIMA

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Cotton arrivals so far during the current season that began in October 2022 has crossed 318 lakh bales, according to the Cotton Corporation of India's data, the Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) said.

There were reports that the cotton crop size this season would be 311.18 lakh bales, SIMA Chairman Ravi Sam said in a release, adding this probably referred to ginning production.

The Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption had estimated total output at 343 lakh bales and opening stock at 39.48 lakh bales. This data should be the benchmark for trade and industry, Mr. Sam observed.

Cotton prices increased by ₹3,000 a candy in the last few days and were quoted at more than ₹60,000 a candy on Saturday amid fears of lower production.

The predominantly cotton-based textile industry is facing challenges owing to high volatility in cotton prices and 11% import duty on cotton. Cotton textile exports, including ready-made garments, slid 23% in 2022-2023 and 18% in April-June. Cotton availability was not a challenge but stability and competitive prices were crucial for industry, SIMA said.

Government of Karnataka
District Health & Family Welfare Society Office
D.C Office Premises, KOPPAL
OFFICE Phone: 08539-221660 E-Mail : dhokoppal@gmail.com
Ref: RCHO/KO/OS/TENDER-2/178/2023-24 Date: 19/08/2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Subject: Inviting Tender for " Providing Manpower services under National Health Mission Program District Health and Family Welfare Society Koppal for the year 2023-24".

With reference to the above subject here by inviting **2 cover** tender for **Providing Manpower services under National Health Mission Program District Health and Family Welfare Society Koppal for the year 2023-24** Short term 2nd call Tender invited through E-Procurement (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) Tender Amount **Rs.2,01,43,026/-** and EMD amount **Rs.4,02,860/-** and for needful information please contact Office Ph. No: **08539-221660.** The Tender documents downloading & submission date as per below information;
1) NIT Published Date : **23/08/2023 11:00:00 am** 2) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders : **06/09/2023 05:30:00 pm** 3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid : **08/09/2023 11:00:00 am.**

Sd/- **Vice President**
District Health & Family Welfare Society, Koppal

DIPR/KOPPAL/104/2023-24/DESHPANDE PUBLICITY

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 01
Telephone No. 080-22133370, **Fax No.** 080-22133365
Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

Short term Tender Notification No. 01/2023-24 Dtd- 18.08.2023

Item-rate tenders, for the work in No.1 South, No.2 North, Devanhalli & Hoskote Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP.Tender Notification are Published for 07 works **(Rs. 8.00 to 49.57 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in E-procurement portal. Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through e-procurement.

For SL No 01 to 03 (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **Dated: 19.08.2023onwards**.
2) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **16:00 hours on dated 02.09.2023**
3) The opening of tenders through e-procurement portal on dated **04.09.2023 at 16.30 hours** or further date and time will be Intimate.
For SL No 04 to 07 (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **Dated: 19.08.2023 onwards.**
2) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **16:00 hours on dated 28.08.2023**
3) The opening of tenders through e-procurement portal on dated **29.08.2023 at 16.30 hours** or further date and time will be Intimate.
For more details can be had from e-procurement portal **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/420/Zen/2023-24

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU businessline.
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE HINDU Young World THE HINDU

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, BBMP Comlpex, 2nd Floor, Laskar Hosur Road, Adugodi, Bangalore-560030.

No: EE/BTM/Ae/E-Proc/04/2023-24 **Date: 18.08.2023**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, BBMP invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Maintenance of Roads drains and footpath work in Ward No-146 Lakkasandra for the year 2023-24. **(Others)**	**55.00**	1,10,000/-
2	Maintenance of Roads drains and footpath work in Ward No-152 S G Palya for the year 2023-24. **(SC)**	**55.00**	55,000/-
3	Maintenance of Roads drains and footpath work in Ward No-172 Madiwala for the year 2023-24. **(Others)**	**55.00**	1,10,000/-
4	Maintenance of Roads drains and footpath work in Ward No-176 BTM Layout for the year 2023-24. **(Others)**	**55.00**	1,10,000/-
5	Maintenance of Roads drains and footpath work in Ward No-147 Adugodi for the year 2023-24. **(SC)**	**55.00**	55,000/-
6	Maintenance of Roads drains and footpath work in Ward No-148 Ejipura for the year 2023-24. **(Others)**	**55.00**	1,10,000/-
7	Maintenance of Roads drains and footpath work in Ward No-151 Koramangala for the year 2023-24. **(ST)**	**55.00**	55,000/-
8	Maintenance of Roads drains and footpath work in Ward No-173 Jannasandra for the year 2023-24. **(Others)**	**55.00**	1,10,000/-

Stipulated period of completion: 12 months for each.

Calender of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK e-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (2) Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **29.08.2023 at 3.00 P.M** in the O/o. The Chief Chief Engineer (South), BBMP, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011. (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal **on or before 4.00 P.M on 04.09.2023** (4) Technical Bids will be opened on or after **05.09.2023 at 4.30 PM.**

Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
BTM Layout Division, BBMP.

TALISMAN

Mascot duo for ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 unveiled

The reigning U-19 World Cup champions, Yash Dhull and Shafali Verma unveiled the mascot duo for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup at Gurugram on Saturday. Fans will have the chance to contribute to the naming of the mascots. The mascots represent distinct traits that stand as symbols of gender equality and diversity, said ICC.

BACK IN THE FOLD?

Malinga likely to return to MI as fast bowling coach, reports suggest

Former Sri Lankan pace ace Lasith Malinga is set to return to five-time IPL champion Mumbai Indians for IPL 2024, this time as its fast bowling coach, according to a report on Saturday. He will be replacing Shane Bond who had held that position for the past nine seasons.

TAKING A DIG

Tim Paine hits out at Stokes for coming out of ODI retirement

Former Australian Test skipper Tim Paine has lashed out at England Test captain Ben Stokes for coming out of ODI retirement to play in the World Cup, saying he cannot just "pick" and "choose" events. "It was a bit of, 'Me, me, me', there isn't it? It was, 'I'll pick and I'll choose where I want to play and when I want to play," Paine said.

GREAT COMEBACK

UAE stuns New Zealand to level T20I series 1-1

Captain Mohammad Waseem led United Arab Emirates to a win over a scratchy New Zealand to level their T20I series 1-1 on Saturday. **The scores:** New Zealand 142/8 (Mark Chapman 63, Aayan Afzal Khan 3/20) lost to UAE 144/3 (Muhammad Waseem 55, Asif Khan 48 n.o.). **Toss:** UAE. **PoM:** Aayan Afzal Khan.

Praggnanandhaa holds Caruana

Carlsen survives scare after local hope Abasov overlooks a winning continuation in the other semifinal

Gritty display: Praggnanandhaa, despite playing with a pawn less after the 41st move, was equal to the challenge against Caruana. FIDE

CHESS WORLD CUP

Sports Bureau

Continuing his splendid run, R. Praggnanandhaa forced a psychologically-important draw with black pieces in 78 moves against World No. 2 Fabiano Caruana in the first game of their semifinal clash in the FIDE World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Saturday.

Much before Caruana and Praggnanandhaa ended their 78-move tester with only the kings on the board, Magnus Carlsen escaped some serious trouble after local hope Nijat Abasov overlooked a winning continuation on the 34th turn, Eventually, the top seed won in 43 moves to take a 1-0 lead.

Praggnanandhaa, despite playing with a pawn less after the 41st move, was equal to the challenge. Caruana tested Praggnanandhaa's understanding of the position which was a theoretical draw.

The young Indian played accurately when the players had a rook each but Caruana banking on his lone pawn. The exchange of rooks hastened the end with Caruana letting Praggnanandhaa take the last pawn, too.

The players clash again on Sunday in the classical time-control with Praggnanandhaa playing with white pieces.

In the women's final, Russian Aleksandra Goryachkina and Bulgarian Nurgyul Salimova drew in 33 moves after a three-fold repetition of the position.

For the third place, Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk led China's Tan Zhongyi following a 52-move win.

Middle-order seeks game time as India eyes series win

INDIA IN IRELAND

Press Trust of India
DUBLIN

Buoyed by Jasprit Bumrah's impressive return, fancied India will hope for better weather and a chance for the team's young batters to show their mettle in the second T20 International against Ireland here on Sunday.

After the Jasprit Bumrah-led bowling attack impressed to restrict Ireland to 139 for seven in the series opener, incessant rain denied the middle-order batters an opportunity to prove their worth.

Curtailed match

India was declared winner by two runs via the Duckworth/Lewis method and both the teams will hope that they get to play a full match in the second game.

The likes of Shivam Dube, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Rinku Singh will hope they get a chance to spend sufficient time in the middle.

Having got out after getting a good start in the first match, opener Yashasvi Jaiswal will look for a big score and so will Tilak Varma.

Sanju Samson lends a bit of experience to the Indian batting order in the absence of Suryakumar Yadav, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill and Hardik Pandya.

Trump card: Ireland would look to decode Bishnoi who left its batters clueless in the opening T20I. PTI

Though injuries have remained a part of his career, all-rounder Washington Sundar has also gained enough experience at the top level, and he will be pressed into service by Bumrah, who is leading the team in the absence of regular T20I skipper Hardik.

Leading the side on his return after an 11-month injury lay-off, Bumrah claimed two for 24 in his first match in almost a year, including bowling nine dot balls while forming a formidable partnership with T20I debutant Prasidh Krishna (two for 32) – also on a comeback trail.

Ireland struggled to recover after Bumrah claimed two wickets in his very first over, setting the platform for his side's victory.

The teams (from):
India: Jasprit Bumrah (Capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad (Vice-Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson (wk), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Ravi Bishnoi, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Mukesh Kumar and Avesh Khan.
Ireland: Andrew Balbirnie (Capt,), Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Ross Adair, Mark Adair, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Fionn Hand, Josh Little, Barry McCarthy, Ben White, Craig Young and Theo van Weorkom.
Match starts at 7:30 p.m. IST.

Indian teams claim compound golds

Sports Bureau

Indian compound archers clinched three medals, including men and women team gold, in the Archery World Cup Stage-4 in Paris on Saturday.

The country's men's side, including Ojas Deotale, Prathamesh Jawkar and Abhishek Verma, defeated USA, comprising Kris Schaff, James Lutz and Sawyer Sullivan, 236-232 (59-60, 59-58, 58-58, 60-56) in the title clash.

The world champion women's team, comprising V. Jyothi Surekha, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur, underlined its class as it again beat Worlds silver medallist Mexico, consisting of Andrea Becerra, Ana Sofia Hernandez and Dafne Quintero, 234-233 (59-59, 59-58, 57-59, 59-57) in the final to claim the top honour.

The results:
Compound: Individual:
Women: Semifinals: V. Jyothi Surekha lost to Ella Gibson (Gbr) 148-150; **Bronze medal match:** Jyothi Surekha bt Sara Lopez (Col) 146-146 (shoot-off: 10*-10);
Team: Gold medal matches:
Men: India bt USA 236-232;
Women: India bt Mexico 234-233.

Sumit in final; Deepak clinches bronze

Sports Bureau

Sumit (60kg) reached the final to assure India of a medal, while Deepak Punia (77kg) earned a bronze in Greco Roman competitions at the World U-20 wrestling championships in Amman, Jordan, on Saturday.

Deepak staged a spectacular come-from-behind 4-2 win over Georgian Tornike Mikeladze. Deepak, who was trailing 0-2, displayed strong defence and his fightback helped him register a sensational win.

Sumit, who outsmarted Kazakhstan's Saifulla Kurman 11-0, Poland's Oliver Skrzypczak 15-7 and Iran's Amirreza Dehbozorgi 10-0 through technical superiority, cruised to the 60kg final to ensure a medal.

Sandeep (63kg) was beaten 4-0 by Japan's Komei Sawada in another bronze-medal match.

Tottenham blasts past United; Brighton on top of the table

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
LONDON

Tottenham Hotspur's new manager Ange Postecoglou celebrated his first home game in charge with a 2-0 victory over Manchester United on Saturday, thanks to Pape Matar Sarr's maiden Premier League goal and a late own goal by Lisandro Martinez.

Senegalese Sarr seized on a deflected cross in the 49th minute to shoot high into the net past Andre Onana, and Martinez then sealed his side's fate by deflecting Ben Davies' scuffed effort past his own keeper in the 83rd minute.

Both sides were denied by the woodwork in a free-flowing contest and United's Bruno Fernandes wasted a glorious opportunity but Postecoglou's Tottenham deserved the three points for a vibrant second-half display.

Liverpool shrugged off a red card for Alexis Mac Allister on his Anfield debut to beat Bournemouth 3-1 as Brighton thrashed Wolves 4-1 to go on top of the Premier League table.

The Cherries had the ball in the net within seconds but Jaidon Anthony's tap-in was ruled out for offside.

Final nail: Martinez's, centre, own goal late in the second half meant that United's efforts to make a comeback went in vain. AFP

Luis Diaz scored first for Liverpool. Jurgen Klopp's men led nine minutes before half-time, but Mohamed Salah needed a second opportunity to tap in the rebound.Liverpool added it to its lead four minutes after Mac Allister was shown the red card.

Brighton scored three times in the first 10 minutes of the second half. Mitoma teed up Pervis Estupinan to smash home for 2-0 before Solly March scored twice.

Brentford is also making light of the absence of the suspended Ivan Toney as it won 3-0 at Fulham.

On Friday, Harry Kane had a dream Bundesliga debut as he found the net in Bayern Munich's 4-0 victory against Werder Bremen.

The results: Premier League: Tottenham 2 (Sarr 49, Martinez 83-og) bt Manchester United 0; Fulham 0 lost to Brentford 3 (Wissa 44, Mbeumo 66-pen, 90); Liverpool 3 (Diaz 28, Salah 36, Jota 62) bt Bournemouth 1 (Semenyo 3); Wolves 1 (Hwang 61) lost to Brighton 4 (Mitoma 15, Estupinan 46, March 51, 55).
Bundesliga: Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Frimpong 24, Tah 35, Wirtz 64) bt RB Leipzig 2 (Olmo 39, Openda 71); VfL Wolfsburg 2 (Wind 6, 27) bt Heidenheim 0; Augsburg 4 (Rexhbecaj 29, Bauer 41, Michel 45+7-pen, Vargas 76) drew with Borussia M'Gladbach 4 (Itakura 13, Cvancara 27, 90+7-pen, Ngoumou Minpole 37); Stuttgart 5 (Guirassy 18, 77, Zagadou 38, Wamangituka 59, 67) bt Bochum 0; Dortmund 1 (Malen 88) bt Koln.
Serie A: Frosinone 1 (Harroui 7-pen) lost to Napoli 3 (Politano 24, Osimhen 42, 79).
On Friday: Premier League: Nottingham Forest 2 (Awoniyi 3, Wood 89) bt Sheffield United 1 (Hamer 48).
Bundesliga: Werder Bremen 0 lost to Bayern Munich 4 (Sane 4, 90+1, Kane 74, Tel 90+4).
LaLiga: Mallorca 0 lost to Villarreal 1 (Gerard 62); Valencia 1 (Pepelu 74) bt Las Palmas 0.

In-form Sable falters, fails to mask anguish; Shaili also falls short

WORLD ATHLETICS

Jonathan Selvaraj
BUDAPEST

Those who know Avinash Sable say he is a hard individual. In the Indian Army, he has served on icy mountains, dense forests and blistering deserts, never complaining. When he moved to athletics, he remained as stoic as ever. Coaches remark how he is unafraid to push himself to the limit, even when lactic acid is flooding his muscles, when every step is pain.

On Saturday, you could see that stoic facade crack on day one of the World Athletics Championships in Budapest. The 28-year-old was dragging himself back over the bridge that links the National Stadium to the warm-up area after failing to qualify for the 3000m steeplechase final.

Sable had come into the World Championships in the best shape of his life. Having finished a surprise 11th at last year's World Championships, he had focused on success this time.

He had the experience of competing and winning in big races, bagging a silver at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Still early in the season, without even pushing himself, he ran close to his personal best. In Colorado, training with a world-class group, he matched running partners stride for stride.

Not to be! Sable, left, could not live up to the expectations and finished seventh, thus missing out on a final berth. AFP

In Budapest, Sable stumbled. A desperate sprint in the final straight was not enough. He finished in 7th place with a time of eight minutes 22.24 seconds, just about a second and-a-half away from the top five that would have qualified him for the final. As he slunk out of the stadium, he looked every inch the beaten man.

"*Podium ke liye itna prepare karte hain. Sab chhod dete hain* (We prepare so much for the podium. We leave everything behind) just to do well in the main competition. And when we can't, we feel very bad. *Nirasha hoti hai* (You feel dejected)," he mumbled.

No joy for racewalkers

Sable's disappointing result was emblematic of Indian struggles on the opening session of the first day of the championships. India's athletes fell short of their season's best in the 20km race walk.

Vikash Singh, who had a season's best of 1:20.05, finished 27th with a time of 1:21.58. Paramjeet Singh, who came in with a best of 1:20.08, clocked 1:24.02 to take 35th place, while Akashdeep Singh was more than 10 minutes off his best (1.19.55) and finished with a time of 1:31.12.

Shaili below her best

Long jumper Shaili Singh also fell short of her best. The 19-year-old came into the long jump competition with a season's best of 6.76m, but managed a best of 6.40m on Saturday and finished in 24th place. The result was disappointing since the final qualifying spot went at 6.61m, a distance Shaili had cleared twice this season.

INBRIEF

Sweden takes third place to spoil Australia's party

Sweden scored either side of half-time to spoil Australia's party and claim third spot at the Women's World Cup with a 2-0 win in Brisbane on Saturday. Sweden took the lead with a 30th-minute penalty by Fridolina Rolfo and doubled its advantage with a powerful strike from Kosovare Asllani just after the hour mark.

Iwami and Wakita clinch the men's and women's titles

Japan's Tenshi Iwami and Sara Wakita bagged the men's and women's titles in the International Surf Open Tamil Nadu-World Surf League QS 3000 at the Mahabalipuram beach on Saturday. Sweden's Kian Martin and Japan's Shino Matsuda finished second in the men's and women's categories.

Mumbai City in quarters with an all-win record

Mumbai City FC completed its group-B league engagement with a dominating 4-0 win over Indian Navy Football Team, in the 132nd Durand Cup football at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Saturday. Mumbai City finished its group league engagements winning all its three matches comfortably and top group-B. In the second match of the day at Kokrajhar, debutant Bodoland FC stunned Super Cup winner Odisha FC 2-1 in group-F league to pick its first win in a major national tournament.

The results: Group B (Kolkata): Mumbai City FC 2 (Pereyra Diaz 34, Greg Stewart 62, Gurkirat Singh 75, Nathan Rodrigues 90+4) bt Indian Navy FT 0.
Group F (Kokrajhar): Bodoland FC 2 (Maneshwar Mushahary 80, Zacharie Mbenda 90) bt Odisha FC 1 (Pungte Lapung 62).

LIVE TELECAST

Maharaja Trophy T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 1 & 5.30 p.m.
Durand Cup: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 & 4.45 p.m.
Football Women's World Cup: (final): FanCode, 3.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30, 9 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 9 p.m.
Ireland vs India: 2nd T20I, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10.30 p.m. & 1 a.m. (Monday)

History beckons with England and Spain one win from World Cup glory

Lionesses coach Wiegman has a world-class squad to call upon while rival Vilda has defied off-field turmoil to take the Spaniards to greater heights

FOOTBALL

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

The brains: England coach Wiegman and Spain's Vidal will be tasked with guiding their teams past one final hurdle. REUTERS, GETTY IMAGES

A Women's World Cup that has broken records on and off the pitch will reach a suitable climax on Sunday when England or Spain are crowned champion for the first time. About 75,000 fans will pack Stadium Australia here for the final of a World Cup that began with 32 teams, compared to 24 four years ago, and saw many of the favourites fall early.

Sarina Wiegman's England is European champion and came into the World Cup as favourites along with the United States.

But like Spain, England had never reached the World Cup final before.

The two teams met in the quarterfinals of last year's European Championship, with Wiegman's Lionesses winning 2-1 in extra time and going on to beat Germany in the final for its first major title.

Wiegman has a world-class squad to call upon, but it is the coach herself who is arguably England's biggest asset.

She is the standard-bearer for woman coaches, having won the Euros with her native Netherlands and then repeating the feat with England.

Wiegman is already hugely respected in her adopted country but now she is one victory away from joining Alf Ramsey, who took England to the men's title in 1966, in winning a World Cup for England.

Spain has defied turmoil off the pitch to make its own history.

Its preparations were clouded by a dispute with 15 players who last year said they no longer wanted to be considered for selection.

Coach Jorge Vilda and his strict personality were chief among a litany of complaints, but here it is, missing 12 of the 15 but on the cusp of world domination.

It is proof of Spain's depth of resources that it has hardly missed the players who refused to play under Vilda.

On top of that, reigning two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas has been reduced to a bit-part role.

In her place, Barcelona playmaker Aitana Bonmati has emerged as Spain's creative force and the player England must stop.

Warriors get the better of Blasters in a rain-affected contest

MAHARAJA TROPHY

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Fighting effort: Shubhang's exploits went in vain as Mysore posted a total that proved a winning one in the end. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Mysuru Warriors took out Bengaluru Blasters by 33 runs (via VJD method) in a rain-affected Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 encounter at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday.

Mysuru posted a good total of 185 for seven, despite left-arm spinner's Shubhang Hegde's (4/23) exploits with the ball. The innings was driven by a half century crafted by C.A. Karthik (62), and a late innings injection from Manoj Bhandage (28) and J. Suchit (31 n.o.).

Bengaluru did got going with the bat. The side was well short of the target of 115 required by the VJD method when rain stopped proceedings. Karthik and Suchit was impressive with the ball as well, picking up two wickets each.

In the second match of the day, Hubli Tigers recorded a facile eight-wicket win over Shivamogga Lions.

After being put in, the Lions fell into a hole at 58 for six. Rearguard action from Pranav Bhatia (46 n.o., 30b, 2x4, 2x6) and S. Shivaraj (21, 14b, 2x4, 1x6) helped Shivamogga post 138 for eight in 20 overs. Pacer Manvanth Kumar scalped three wickets.

The Tigers cruised to the target in 16.4 overs. Openers Luvnith Sisodia and Mohammed Taha put Hubli on the right track with a 85-run stand in 9.4 overs.

Taha (37, 26b, 3x4, 3x6) was first to go, but Sisodia (69, 46b, 10x4, 2x6) batted Shivamogga out of the contest. One-drop Naga Bharath (23 n.o., 21b, 1x6) finished the job.

The scores: Mysuru Warriors 185/7 in 20 overs (C.A. Karthik 62, J. Suchith 31 n.o., Manoj Bhandage 28, Shubhang Hegde 4/23) bt Bengaluru Blasters 81/5 in 11.1 overs (**Target 115 in 11.1 overs by VJD Method**) (Suraj Ahuja 31).

Shivamogga Lions 138/8 in 20 overs (Pranav Bhatia 46 n.o., Manvanth Kumar 3/23) lost to Hubli Tigers 139/2 in 16.4 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 69, Mohammed Taha 37).

Going gets tough for former champions

NATIONAL CHESS

Rakesh Rao
PUNE

With the exception of S.P. Sethuraman, former champions continued to struggle in the 60th National chess championship even as only eight leaders maintained perfect scores after four rounds on Saturday.

After Chhattisgarh's S. Dhananjay showed the way by stunning top seed and former champion Abhijeet Gupta on Friday it was the turn of G. Akash and twice winner D.V. Prasad to end up on the losing side against lesser-rated rivals at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex here.

While Dhananjay continued his good work and held Grandmaster M.R. Venkatesh, Akash had a forgettable day.

Best remembered for winning the 2012 edition at the age of 16, ran into his senior teammate from Tamil Nadu, C. Praveen Kumar, and resigned in 55 moves after failing to find a way to stop his rival's queening-pawn.

Prasad, rated 2254 and facing players of a different generation in his comeback bid, found the going tough against home state's Shriraj Bhosale (1930) and resigned in a lost position following the late queen-trade.

The results (fourth round):
Abhimanyu Puranik (4) bt Arghyadip Das (3); L.R. Srihari (3) lost to S. P. Sethuraman (4); S. Nitin (3.5) drew with Surya Shekhar Ganguly (3.5).
Soham Kamotra (3.5) drew with Diptayan Ghosh (3.5); Mitrabha Guha (4) bt C.R.G. Krishna (3).
Utsab Chatterjee (3) lost to P. Iniyan (4); N.R. Vignesh (4) bt Utkal Ranjan Sahoo (3); Aakash Dalvi (3) lost to Sayantan Das (4); Deep Sengupta (4) bt Rajesh Nayak (3); G. Akash (3) lost to C. Praveen Kumar (4); S. Dhananjay (3.5) drew with M.R. Venkatesh (3.5); Anuj Shrivatri (3.5) drew with Bhaavan Kolla (3.5).

SPORTS DIGEST

Three set new meet records

Karnataka's Vidith S. Shankar, Ishaan Mehra and Tanishi Gupta set new meet records on the penultimate day of the 39th sub junior and 49th junior National aquatics in Bhubaneswar on Saturday. Vidith broke his own national record in 100m breaststroke for group 1 boys, clocking 1:04.26s to beat his previous best of 1:05.04s. Ishaan, who had already secured four gold medals, added a fifth in the 50m freestyle event for group II boys, in record time, coming home in 24.68s to better his own timing from the heats (24.71s). In the 200m butterfly for group II girls, Tanishi broke Apeksha Fernandes's record from 2019 (2:23.67), taking the gold in 2:21.45s.

Select results (winners all):
Boys: Group I: 100m breaststroke: Vidith S. Shankar (Kar) 1:04.26 (NMR; OR: 1:05.04, Vidith, 2022); **Group II: 50m freestyle:** Ishaan Mehra (Kar) 24.68 (NMR; OR: 24.71, Ishaan, 2023); **200m butterfly:** Akshaj Thakuria (Kar) 2:13.82; **Girls: Group II: 200m butterfly:** Tanishi Gupta (Kar) 2:21.45 (NMR; OR: 2:23.67, Apeksha Fernandes, 2019).

Ishaan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mofussil XI takes first innings lead

Half-centuries from S. Gagan Rao (60) and D. Gaurav Krishna (62) helped Mofussil XI secure the first-innings lead over Combined City XI and bag three points in a drawn KSCA under-19 inter-zonal tournament encounter.

The scores: Combined Mofussil XI 266 in 71.4 overs (S.U. Karthik 42, Laxmikant A. Suryavanshi 25, Prabhu Sasalatti 48, C.M. Gagan 3/53) & 118/2 in 26.5 overs (S.U. Karthik 35, Madhava Dharwadkar 41 n.o., C.R. Kumarswamy 29 n.o.) drew with President's XI 253/8 in 90 overs (Pranav R. Babu 34, Prakhar Chaturvedi 27, P. Dhruv 101 n.o., P. Vikas 32, D.S. Bhushan 33, Ashish Nayak 4/27).
Combined City XI 260 in 70.1 overs (Pradyumna Panigrahy 40, Rishav Appachu Manavtira 78, K.P. Karthikeya 77, S. Ishaan 5/33, K. Ambresh 3/52) & 299/4 in 38 overs (A. Siddharth 64, K.P. Karthikeya 72 n.o.) drew with Mofussil XI 265 in 66.2 overs (S. Gagan Rao 60, M. Tanmay 27, D. Gaurav Krishna 62, M.P. Samarth 5/50).
Bangalore 168 in 64.3 overs (S. Agastya 33, Samyak Vellalore 36 n.o., N. Samarth 4/35, Ronith Iyengar 3/29) & 191/5 in 35.1 overs (Harshil 72, Hari Rajiv 79) drew with Bangalore City XI 198 in 72 overs (Samit Dravid 36, Aaryan Santosh 28, Akshath Prabhakar 52, Divyam Khater 30, Shikhar Shetty 5/40).

Pooja scores century

Pooja Dhananjaya top-scored with 101 as Friends Union (1) thrashed Eminent Cricketers by a whopping 357-run margin in the KSCA Women's League.

The scores: FUCC (1) 378/5 in 50 overs (Krishika Reddy 55, Jayashree Rajshekar Kuchabal 40, Pooja Dhananjaya 101, R. Aditi 63, P. Saloni 64 n.o.) bt Eminent Cricketers 21 in 16.3 overs (Namita D'Souza 3/9).
Minerva 111 in 29.2 overs (Aqfin Ruhik Doddamani 27, Vaishnavi 5/33, Zainab 3/12) lost to Bangalore Occasionals 112/6 in 30.2 overs (Reema Fareed 41).
Century Cricketers 102 in 36.3 overs (Vaishnavi Beerappa Hunashyala 3/17) lost to Jupiter CA 103/0 in 15.5 overs (Swati Venkatesh Karant 31 n.o., K. Supreetha 59 n.o.).
Engrades 64 in 22.3 overs (Subhra Majumder 3/13) lost to Jawans 65/1 in 11.1 overs (Patel Silkin Jeetubhai 35 n.o.).
FUCC (2) 55 in 34.2 overs (Monika 4/5) lost to Cambridge CC 59/2 in 20 overs.

Darsh scalps six

S. Darsh's six-wicket haul (six for 54) helped The Frank Anthony Public School register a six-wicket victory over Chinmaya Vidyalaya in the KSCA Cup u-16 second division school tournament.

The scores: Chinmaya Vidyalaya 129 in 26.1 overs (Rajaneni Mohanish 37, S. Darsh 6/54, Dhruv Reddy 3/17) lost to The Frank Anthony Public School 131/4 in 32.5 overs(Mahiraj Singh Sisodia31, Rrishi Saklecha 35).
Ryan IS, Kundalahalli 128 in 31.2 overs (Sanchit Kumar 34, Ishan N. Kausthubh 3/26) lost to Mallya Aditi IS 132/2 in 14.4 overs (Yashas Shankar 47, Anvay Dravid 45 n.o., Arhaan Jai Singh 27 n.o.).
Holy Cross School 88 in 19.4 overs (Shreyas N. Shetty 3/33) lost to The Regency PS 89/2 in 19.1 overs.

Dheeraj sizzles

Dheeraj scored 29 points as GST & Customs defeated Bharath SU 101-86 in the State A-division league basketball championship here on Saturday.

The results: Mangalore BC 86 (Rajath 32, Ganesh 11) bt BSNL 53 (Bhuvan Raju 15, Hareesh 11); Young Orions SC 89 (Sumanth 19, Pratyanshu 14) bt MNK Rao Park BC 41 (Binoy 13, Darshan 11); GST & Customs 101 (Dheeraj 29, Samyam 23, Hrishikesh 23) bt Bharath SU 86 (Akshay 36, Nakul 15, Hari 13); Beagles BC 64 (Kushal 21, Satyajith 11) bt S. Blues 52 (Dencil 27, Benjamin 14); Bank of Baroda 72 (Nagaraj 21, Mufeez 17, Sukesh 17) bt DYES Bangalore 43 (Manoj 16, Sethu 10).

Roots FC pips Young Strikers

Roots FC pipped Young Strikers 4-3 in an under-11 category match of the Karnataka Youth League football here on Saturday.

The results: U-11: Sports Hood bt Snipers 2-1; Blore Balaharka bt BPSS 3-1; Roots FC bt Young Strikers 4-3; Ronaldo FC bt Stadium 5-2; William FA bt Stallion FA 3-1; IFEP bt BYFL 4-0; BCFC bt Playsmart 2-1; Young Blues Elite bt Goals FC 3-0.

Mehuli wins bronze and Olympic quota

Sports Bureau

Mehuli Ghosh won the Olympic quota in women's air rifle along with an individual bronze medal in the World Championship in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Saturday. Tilottama Sen was equally sharp in placing fourth, but with the new rule for Olympic qualification, one nation could get only one quota in a competition.

Mehuli topped the qualification with 634.5, before clinching the individual bronze. With Ramita Jindal as the third member, the Indian team won the gold ahead of China and Germany.

The results: 10m air rifle:
Men: 1. Viictor Lindgren (Swe) 251.3 (629.3); 2. Yang Haoran (Chn) 250.6 (633.9); 3. Frantisek Smetana (Cze) 227.5 (629.7); 28. Divyansh Singh Panwar 627.5; 33. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar 627.3; 68. Hriday Hazarika 623.6.
Team: 1. China 1893.3 (WR); 2. Czech Republic 1884.3; 3. Croatia 1883.5; 10. India 1878.4.
Women: 1. Han Jayu (Chn) 251.4 (632.3); 2. Wang Zhillin (Chn) 250.2 (630.8); 3. Mehuli Ghosh 2298 (634.5); 4. Tilottama Sen 208.4 (631.3); 11. Ramita Jindal 630.1.
Team: 1. India (Mehuli, Tilottama, Ramita) 1895.9; 2. China 1893.7; 3. Germany 1887.5.

Last Wish claims the Leading Stud Trophy

BENGALURU: Dr. Suresh Chintamaneni's Last Wish (Antony up) won the Leading Stud Trophy, the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (Aug 19). The winner is trained by Neil Devaney. Jockey Antony won three races on the day.
LEADING INDIVIDUAL OWNER: Five Stars Shipping Co Pvt Ltd, (prize money of Rs. 85,36,404).
LEADING JOINT OWNERS: M/s. Five Stars Shipping Co Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr & Mrs. K.N. Dhunjibhoy, Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP and Miss. Anita J. Captain, (prize money of Rs. 1,67,71,758).
CHAMPION TRAINER: S. Attaollahi (18 wins).
CHAMPION JOCKEY: Akshay Kumar (29 wins).
CHAMPION INDIAN JOCKEY CLAIMING ALLOWANCE: Inayat (five wins).
LEADING STUD FARM: Kunigal (23 wins).
HORSE OF THE SEASON: Northern Lights (3 starts, 3 wins), (prize money of Rs. 28,33,320).
CHAMPION HORSE: Jamari (prize money of Rs. 1,67,71,758).
LEADING TIPSTER (NEWSPAPER): The Hindu (58 winners and 39 second chance winners).
THE RESULTS

1. BETWAY WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY PLATE: ULTIMATE CHANCE (G. Vivek) 1, Chiraag (Inayat) 2, Mega Success (Vivek) 3 and Elite Agent (Angad) 4. 2-1/2, Snk and 1-1/2. Im 27.59s. Rs. 28 (w), 13, 14 and 28 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 62, FP: 98, Q: 43, Trinella: 781, Exacta: 2,011. Favourite: Chiraag.
Owners: Mr. Girish Baliga & Mr. Subash Baliga. Trainer: S. Dominic..

2. RACING OFFICIALS TROPHY (DIV. II): CAESARS PALACE (S. Shareef) 1, Breeze Bluster (Akshay K) 2, Super Sapphire (Trevor) 3 and Cat Whiskers (G. Vivek) 4. 3-1/2, 1-1/2 and 3/4. 1m 12.60s. Rs. 236 (w), 33, 13 and 13 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 52, FP: 2,418, Q: 316, Trinella: 3,765, Exacta: 7,192. Favourite: Cat Whiskers.
Owner: Mr. H.R. Pai. Trainer: M. Rajendra Singh.

S. Attaollahi (champion trainer), Inyat (champion apprentice jockey), Mr. Shivkumar Kheny (Chairman BTC), Zayn Mirza (representing Kunigal Stud Farm), Akshay Kumar (champion jockey) and Riaz Babu (leading tipster from *The Hindu*) at the Bangalore Turf Club in Bengaluru on August 19, 2023. K. MURALI KUMAR

3. SAYONARA STAKES: MILLBROOK (S. John) 1, The Strikingly (P. Sai Kumar) 2, Chinky Pinky (R. Pradeep) 3 and Burst Of Blaze (B. Nayak) 4. 5-3/4, 9-1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m 26.01s. Rs. 19 (w), 10, 12 and 32 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 63, FP: 88, Q: 42, Trinella: 636, Exacta: 5,861. Favourite: Millbrook.
Owners: Rajagiri Rubber & Produce Co Ltd rep. by Mr & Mrs. Dilip Thomas'. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

4. CHAMPION TRAINER TROPHY: NORWEGIAN WOOD (Antony) 1, Regal Aristocracy (Neeraj) 2, Stravinsky (Trevor) 3 and High Tribute (Hindu S) 4. 1-1/4, 5 and 9-3/4. 1m 37.15s. Rs. 57 (w), 14, 28 and 13 (p), SHP: 108, THP: 39, FP: 1,070, Q: 395, Trinella: 4,751, Exacta: 33,728. Favourite: Imperial Gesture.
Owners: Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Mr. Sanjay Datta Gupta, Mrs. Manisha Balay & Mr. Shouryabrata Mandal. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

5. LEADING OWNER TROPHY: MICHIGAN MELODY (S. John) 1, Golden Time (Inayat) 2, Chisox (Shreyas S) 3 and Ultimate Striker (G. Vivek) 4. 2, Lnk and 1-1/2. 1m 12.46s. Rs. 23 (w), 13, 12 and 21 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 63, FP: 51, Q: 32, Trinella: 290, Exacta: 1,019. Favourite: Michigan Melody.
Owner: Mr. Satish G. Kundapur. Trainer: Neil Devaney.

6. CHAMPION JOCKEY TROPHY: VICTORIA PUNCH (Antony) 1, Top Dancer (Hindu S) 2, Nikolina (Akshay K) 3 and Wild Emperor (Trevor) 4. 1-1/2, 1-1/4 and Lnk. 1m 41.19s. Rs. 82 (w), 21, 15 and 14 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 50, FP: 384, Q; 169, Trinella: 1,827, Exacta: 2,766. Favourite: Wild Emperor.
Owner: Mr. Ananda C. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

7. LEADING STUD TROPHY: LAST WISH (Antony) 1, Shamrock (Akshay K) 2, Yukan (Trevor) 3 and Sea Lion (J.H. Arul) 4. 1/2, 6-3/4 and 3/4. 1m 28.23s. Rs. 67 (w), 14, 13 and 14 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 44, FP: 124, Q: 53, Trinella: 282, Exacta: 1,268. Favourite: Shamrock.
Owner: Dr. Suresh Chintamaneni. Trainer: Neil Devaney.

Note: The Stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club, have decided to cancel the last race of the day, due to heavy rain, rendering the race track not conducive for racing.

Jackpot: Rs. 25,712 (nine tkts) (paid on 4 legs); Treble (i): 424 (22 tkts); (ii): 561 (26 tkts) (paid on 2 legs).

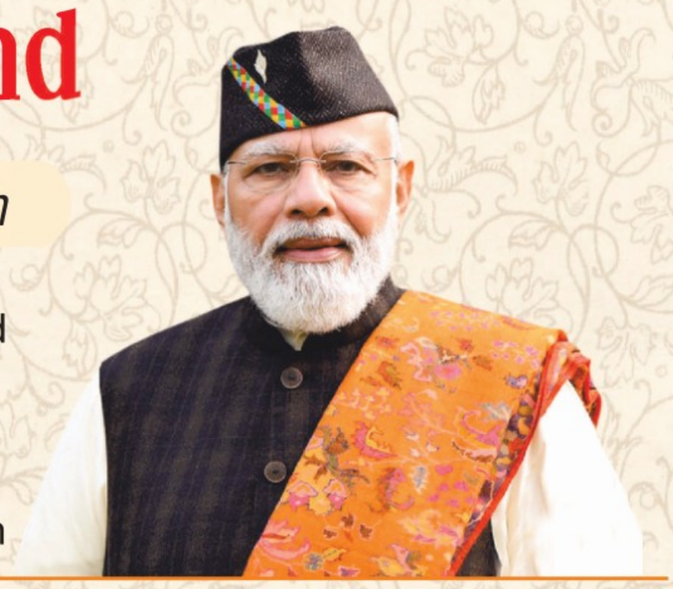
Govt. of Uttarakhand | G20 भारत 2023 INDIA | Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Destination Uttarakhand

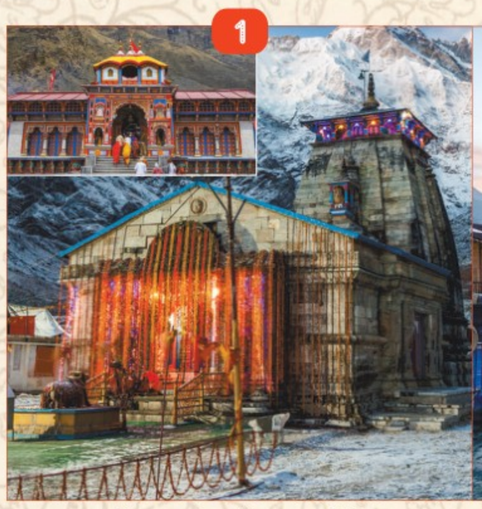
Uttarakhand marching towards development path

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Taking Forward Uttarakhand Government's Committed Developmental Accomplishments Under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the proactive leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Uttarakhand is achieving greater dimensions in its developmental journey, thanks to the force and might of its double-engine government

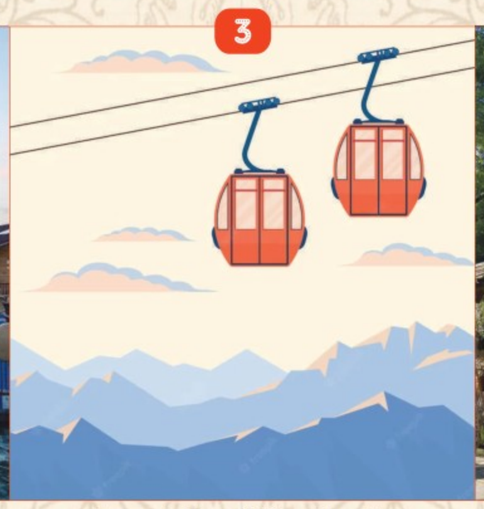


Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



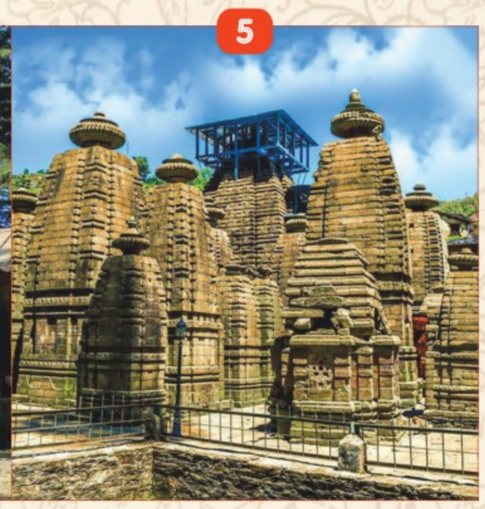
1 Reconstruction work in Kedarnath-Badrinath Dham worth Rs 1,300 crore

2 Tehri Lake Development work at a cost of Rs 1,930 crore



3 Foundation of Gaurikund, Kedarnath and Govindghat Hemkund Sahib ropeway

4 More than 4,000 homestays developed

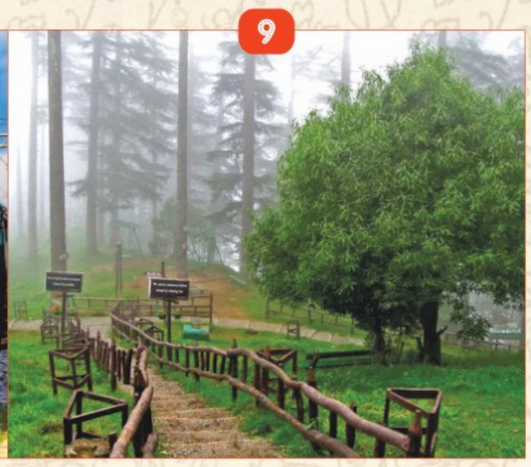


5 Manaskhand Temple Garland Mission

6 Satellite Center of AIIMS, Rishikesh, at Udham Singh Nagar

7 Uttarakhand became the center of adventure tourism and yoga

8 Survey of Tanakpur-Bageshwar rail line



9 Development of 16 eco-tourism destinations

PARVATMALA PROJECT

This project is all geared to change the fate of the state in the times to come

Kedarnath and Hemkund projects have been approved under the Parvatmala project. This project is also worth more than Rs 3,000 crore and it is expected to increase pilgrimage and tourism in the state by leaps and bound.

MULTI-MODAL CONNECTIVITY EASING TRAFFIC

NEW AVENUES OF DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT ARE EMERGING FAST

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal for the all-round development of Uttarakhand is not only seeped in religious faith, but his dream is to make Devbhoomi self-sufficient and thriving. Under the guidance of the state government headed by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, there are new initiatives and unprecedented work being done on multi-modal connectivity.

PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the dream project Sonprayag-Kedarnath ropeway. The distance of seven hours will be completed in 30 minutes.

SONPRAYAG-KEDARNATH ROPEWAY

The ropeway when completed will be about 9.7 km long till Kedarnath Dham. It will connect Gaurikund to Kedarnath. The travel time between the two places will come down to around 30 minutes from the present 6-7 hours.

- The project is targeted to be completed by June 2026. About a 9.7 km long project will cost Rs 1,268 crore.
- The first option is to make Kedarnath Yatra safe by securing the foot journey, especially for the elderly, children and the disabled. Another option is Heli service which is not possible for all.
- The option of ropeway will be very convenient, due to which the journey of children, old people, soldiers and disabled will be easy. Also, it will make this religious journey adventurous as well as safe.

CMYK A BG-BGE